

MDA No.: 1651

Title: Funding and support for food growing

1. Executive Summary

1.1 At the Environment Committee meeting on 16 October 2024 the Committee resolved:

That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree any output arising from the discussion.

1.2 Following consultation with party Group Lead Members, the Chair is asked to agree the Committee's letter to the Mayor, as attached at **Appendix 1**.

2. Decision


2.1 **That the Environment Committee's letter on funding and support for food growing be agreed.**

Assembly Member

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

Signature:



Printed Name:

Zack Polanski AM, Chair of the Environment Committee

Date:

12 November 2024

3. Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

Background and proposed next steps:

- 3.1 The exercise of delegated authority agreeing the Committee's letter will be formally noted at the Committee's next appropriate meeting.

Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision:

Signature (Committee Services): *Sal Fazal*

Printed Name: Saleha Fazal, Committee Officer

Date: 12 November 2024

Financial Implications: NOT REQUIRED

Note: Finance comments and signature are required only where there are financial implications arising or the potential for financial implications.

Signature (Finance): Not Required

Legal Implications:

The Chair of the Environment Committee has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signature (Legal): 

Printed Name: Rory McKenna

Date: 13.11.24

Email: rory.mckenna@london.gov.uk

Supporting Detail / List of Consultees:

- Leonie Cooper AM, Deputy Chair;
- Keith Prince AM; and
- Gareth Roberts AM.

4. Public Access to Information

- 4.1 Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the FoIA, or the EIR and will be made available on the GLA Website, usually within one working day of approval.
- 4.2 If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.
- 4.3 **Note:** this form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

Part 1 - Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? **NO**

If yes, until what date:

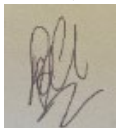
Part 2 – Sensitive Information:

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA or EIR should be included in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form? **NO**

Lead Officer / Author

Signature:



Printed Name: Richard Clarke

Job Title: Senior Policy Adviser

Date: 12 November 2024

Countersigned by Executive Director:

Signature:



Printed Name: Helen Ewen, Executive Director, Assembly Secretariat

Date: 13 November 2024



Zack Polanski AM

Chair of the Environment Committee

Sadiq Khan

Mayor of London

(Sent by email)

Cc Mete Coban MBE

Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy

Re: Funding and support for food growing

7 November 2024

Dear Sadiq,

The Environment Committee has looked at issues relating to food growing in London several times in recent months.¹ The Environment Committee plans to publish a report following this investigation, which will explore the wider issues and opportunities for strengthening this sector. We wanted to also write to you now, as important decisions are currently being made around budgets for next year, and the delivery plans for mandates and missions are being agreed.

¹ The Environment Committee held a meeting exploring food security in London in February 2024, and subsequently in this Assembly year the Committee visited Organdea's Hawkwood site in Chingford in July 2024 and held a roundtable discussion with stakeholders as part of its Local Food Growing investigation. The Committee have also undertaken a Call for Evidence from stakeholders, and most recently, held a Committee meeting with a range of local food growing experts on 16 October 2024.

Capital Growth has played an important role for more than a decade in championing food growing in London and is mentioned in the London Plan in relation to Policy G8 on food growing.² Southwark Council informed the Committee that “It is really important to have Sustain and Capital Growth holding this together, bringing people together and being able to signpost different councils to each other”.³

During the investigation it has become clear that funding for the Capital Growth network has not yet been confirmed for 2025. During our recent meeting with local food growing experts, we heard from Sarah Williams, Director of Programmes at Capital Growth, that “At the moment Capital Growth does not have any funding” and is currently running on reserve money until it hears the outcomes of future funding decisions.⁴

In your recent reply to a letter on this topic, you did not confirm future funding, but rather said:

“Capital Growth has received funding of £35,000 from the Mayor’s Healthy Place, Healthy Weight mission. [...] Future support for the Capital Growth work will be considered alongside other work to support child health and child healthy weight, as well as in discussions with other GLA teams, some of which have recently become involved with some elements of Capital Growth work [...]”.⁵

The Committee is concerned about the future of funding for Capital Growth, particularly at a time when there is a major overhaul of Greater London Authority governance to deliver more joined up policies and priorities, and there is a risk that existing, successful cross-cutting areas such as food growing may get missed.

The Committee urges you to continue to champion the benefits of local food growing. We reiterate the recommendations from the Committee’s March 2024 letter, which requested that funding for Capital Growth, and support for food growing across the GLA, are not only maintained but increased in 2025-26.⁶

I would be grateful if you could respond to the Committee in writing by 18 December 2024.

Yours,



Zack Polanski AM
Chair of the Environment Committee

² GLA, [London Plan 2021](#), para 8.8.5. p331

³ Environment Committee, [Local Food Growing meeting](#), 16 October 2024

⁴ Environment Committee, [Local Food Growing meeting](#), 16 October 2024

⁵ Letter from the Mayor to the Chair of the Environment Committee, 17 October 2024

⁶ Environment Committee, [Food Security and Sustainability Letter](#), 18 March 2024