**Ask of local authorities: Support for local food production and food growing in light of Covid 19**

**Intro to why**

1. Community food gardens, early in the pandemic, not only provided ‘permitted’ exercise opportunities but beyond this they were also growing food and contributing to household or community level food supply
2. In addition, productive urban farms were able to increase production to supply urban food populations
3. Urban food production plays an important role in local food resilience and food supply for short, medium and longer term
4. Community food gardens and other urban food growing spaces need to be supported to keep growing through the summer season to ensure that the physical space is maintained, are re-opening and that volunteers are kept engaged and motivated.

**We are asking local authorities to take three clear actions**

1. Help identify additional land that can be used to grow food by community groups, social enterprises or as individual small plots, recognising the important role of local food production.
2. Offer support to community gardens and garden networks e.g. helping access materials such as compost, plants and seeds.
3. Ensure that community food gardens are recognised as an ‘essential service’ in any future lockdown scenario so that community food gardens can continue to grow food where safe to do so, and where they adhere to social distancing guidelines.
   * Publish guidelines that gardens can continue growing food in the event of any future lockdown e.g. dowloadable posters that can be displayed on garden gates. Examples are available via Capital Growth and Good to Grow.