

## APPENDIX

### **SAMPLE ALLOTMENT STRATEGY**

#### SECTION ONE

##### PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

Allotments are an important community resource. The allotment strategy has been drafted for Council provided allotment sites- not for privately owned sites.

The strategy seeks through its targets and initiatives to optimise the use of allotment sites for existing and potential plot holders. All initiatives contained in this strategy must be considered in the context of other council strategies, policies and objectives.

This document sets out to put in place a framework for the next 5 years to develop allotments as a community resource and manage allotments in partnership with the users and provides a focus on five main target areas.

It also seeks to promote allotment gardening for:

- Low cost and local food production
- Healthy recreational activity
- The opportunity to maintain and develop skills
- Social contact and development of communities
- Better partnership working

## **SECTION TWO**

### **INTRODUCTION**

- Allotments are an important community resource of Lancaster City Council, providing a wide range of benefits to communities and the environment.
- Allotments are not just a good way of producing good and low cost food, though this remains important. They offer a variable recreational role involving healthy exercise, social contacts, the fun and challenge of growing vegetables, fruit and flowers.
- Allotments are a valuable green sustainable open space - part of the urban culture. They contribute to the retention of traditional skills and knowledge as well as being highly beneficial to the wildlife of the city.
- Many of the properties in the District have either small or no gardens. Current house building trends are towards smaller gardens, as pressure increases to optimise building land. Those who live in flats often have no individual garden. These circumstances disproportionately disadvantage those on lower incomes. Allotments provide an opportunity to adjust this imbalance.
- The high value – low cost benefits are readily available to all, but most importantly, those who find themselves socially disadvantaged.
- Allotments have been evolving since the Tudor times but the first legislation was the Enclosures Act of 1845. Since the beginning of the 20th Century there has been a succession of law, collectively known as the 'Allotments Acts'.
- The provision of allotments, by local authorities is a statutory duty. Lancaster City Council will continue to provide and promote allotments not only because of this statutory requirement but because:
  - allotment gardening can make a valuable contribution to the District's sustainability by providing health, social, economic and environmental benefits
  - allotments are an important community resource as well as a recreational facility with benefits to both physical and mental well being

- These benefits can be increased significantly over the period of this strategy. Fundamental to this is the need to improve the management of the Council's allotments as a community resources
- **The overall objective of this strategy is to improve the management of the Council's allotments as a community resource.**

The strategy broken down in to 5 target areas:

- 1 Ensuring sufficient allotments
- 2 Promoting allotment gardening
- 3 Encouraging sustainability
- 4 Developing self management arrangements
- 5 Improving infrastructure

- All proposals are set within the overall framework and operation of the council's policies, the local plan and linked strategies.

## SECTION 3

### 3 LINKS TO LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL'S VISION AND STRATEGIES

#### The Council's Corporate Plan

- Links include-

Medium Term Objective	Priority Outcome	How the improved management of allotments will contribute
To deliver value for money customer focused service	To keep the annual council tax increase to a minimum whilst achieving the other policy objectives and outcomes	The devolution of the District's allotments has generated considerable efficiencies for the Council over the years.  Whilst this strategy outlines the resources that are required to improve allotment provision the the proposals have been developed on an invest to save basis
To make our District a cleaner, healthier place	Reduce waste in the district by recycling and re-use	Waste from allotments is composted and reused which in turn contributes to this objective.
To reduce crime and the fear of crime	To reduce crime and the fear of crime and to help residents feel safer in their communities	Every year incidents of criminal damage to allotments are reported. Improved infrastructure will help reduce these incidents
To support sustainable communities	To reduce the amount of energy used by both the Council and households across the District	Allotments provide an excellent source of local food which in turn contributes to a reduction in 'food miles'

### Parks and Open Space Strategy

- Allotments are part of the District's open space and this strategy seeks to maximise the use of allotments as a valuable community and leisure resource.

### Equal Opportunities and Social Inclusion

- Providing equality of access to all sections of the community is seen as central to the allotment service. This will be considered in the way in which we promote allotments, in any future improvements to the layout and facilities and the setting of charges.

### The Community Strategy

Links include

Vision	Outcomes	How the improved management of allotments will contribute
Meeting essential needs	Individuals and communities are empowered and encouraged to achieve their full potential for good health & wellbeing. We have access to affordable nutritious and safe food.	Allotments allow individuals and their communities to achieve good health and wellbeing and provide a source of nutritious food.
Taking part	We all have opportunities to take part in diverse community activities, with our friends, families, neighbours and	Allotments are an important community resource. Self management of allotments promotes volunteering, empowers people, generates community spirit and develops local peoples capacity and ability to manage local resources and facilities

Vision	Outcomes	How the improved management of allotments will contribute
	<p>colleagues. We have a feeling of belonging and community pride.</p> <p>We are supported and empowered to take part in and influence the decisions that affect our lives, locally and beyond.</p> <p>All sections of the community work together for the betterment of society.</p>	
<p>Care and respect for everyone</p>	<p>All manifestations of prejudice, such as discrimination, harassment and bullying, are deemed unacceptable, and people have a sense of responsibility towards each other.</p> <p>Diversity in all aspects is embraced and celebrated and freedom of conscience is respected. All people who require care or support to maximise their potential are provided for and any specialist support is individual and</p>	<p>Allotments promote effective partnership working between people from very diverse origins and backgrounds</p>

Vision	Outcomes	How the improved management of allotments will contribute
	needs focused.	
Fun, creativity and leisure	There are a variety of satisfying leisure and creative activities to meet the diverse needs of local people and visitors and people are actively participating in these activities. There is active promotion of artistic, cultural and sporting opportunities.	<p>Allotments provide a rich source of leisure and creative activity to meet the diverse needs of local people.</p> <p>Allotments are actively promoted to all local people</p>
Using Resources Wisely	The materials, goods and services we use are produced and used in an environmentally friendly way and we only use our fair share of resources. Everything we use is made to last a long time and then be recycled. We all reduce, re-use and recycle our waste at work, in business and at home. Individuals and organisations use energy efficiently in their buildings, heating, lighting	<p>Allotments promote the production of food in an environmentally friendly way.</p> <p>Many allotments grow food organically. All allotments contribute to a reduction in the amount of food miles.</p> <p>All allotments demonstrate application of the waste heirarchy of reduce, reuse and recycle.</p>

Vision	Outcomes	How the improved management of allotments will contribute
	and transport. Renewable resources are used to produce a substantial and increasing proportion of our energy.	
Protecting and enhancing wildlife	Our air, land and water are clean and healthy. Together we encourage and nurture the diversity of wildlife and quality of rural and urban landscapes that make the district so special and important to our economy, health and wellbeing. Our back yards, gardens and urban landscapes meet the needs of people and wildlife. We all have access to green spaces in our neighbourhoods.	Allotments provide green spaces in urban landscapes that nurture diversity of wildlife.
Economy and work	We value both paid and unpaid work. We recognise the value of the private, voluntary and public sectors to the local people	Allotments provide opportunities for voluntary and self management develops a wide range of skills and abilities that benefit the local economy



Vision	Outcomes	How the improved management of allotments will contribute

Community Safety Strategy

- Reduce incidents of criminal damage within allotments by improving the infrastructure

Local development Plan

- The Local development Plan provides the overall planning guidance of the city. Zoning areas for development, such as housing or industry gives a vision of likely land use. It is also a useful tool to identify future needs, including allotments.

## SECTION 4

### CURRENT PROVISION

#### The Sites

There are 12 Council allotment sites across the District.

The location of the sites is as follows-

Allotment	Location	Ward
Dorrington Road	Lancaster	Scotforth West
Barley Cop Lane	Lancaster	Skerton East
Torrisholme	Lancaster	Skerton West
Highfield	Lancaster	Bulk
Devonshire Road	Morecambe	Heysham North
Highfield	Carnforth	Carnforth
Cork Rd	Lancaster	John O'Gaunt
Shrewsbury Drive	Lancaster	John O'Gaunt
Scotforth Cemetery	Lancaster	Scotforth West
Bridge Road	Lancaster	Scotforth West
John O'Gaunt	Lancaster	John O'Gaunt
Fairfield	Lancaster	Castle

There are 536 full sized plots. There has been more emphasis in recent years to provide smaller plots for those who wish them. The number of full sized plots equates to four plots per thousand of population.

This compares with-

Ipswich- 18 plots per thousand

Carlisle- 8 plots per thousand  
Exeter- 11 plots per thousand  
Preston- 4 plots per thousand  
Chorley- 1 plot per thousand

Management Arrangements (Description)

Allotments are self managed by the individual allotment associations.

## SECTION 5

Developing allotments as a community resource through-

- Improving infrastructure
- Promoting allotments
- Encouraging sustainability
- Supporting Self-management
- Meeting demand for allotments

## Improving Infrastructure

Improving the infrastructure of allotments is vital. Badly maintained boundaries result in vandalism and fly tipping. Water supply is essential at allotment sites. Allotments should be accessible to all to achieve there is a need to maintain pathways, improve plot lay out and consider whether toilets and site huts should be provided at sites.

Priority Outcome	What we will do	What resources will we need	Who will do it
Boundaries at all allotments are fit for purpose	Implement a programme to make boundaries sound at the following allotment sites- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Torrisholme</li> <li>• Barley Cop Lane</li> <li>• John O'Gaunt</li> <li>• Carnforth</li> <li>• Dorrington Road</li> <li>• Highfield</li> <li>• Scotforth</li> </ul>	Improvement programme of £50,000 over 5 years	LCC- manage / fund programme IAA- seek external funding to contribute to programme
All allotments have an adequate water supply	Provide a water supply at – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carnforth</li> </ul>	See above	See above
Improve maintenance at individual allotment sites so that allotments are accessible by all	Allotment associations to develop improvement plans at all sites	Use amount currently paid as lease to Council to fund site by site improvement plans	IAA- develop improvement plans and fund from lease LCC- provide support











