

Appendix II

Annual Allotments Report 2023

1 Introduction

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (“the Act”) encourages local authorities to support the development of community food growing spaces including allotments. Allotments and other grow your-own initiatives help deliver many benefits including improved physical and mental health and well-being, social interaction, reduction in carbon footprints associated with Food Supply Chains, access to locally grown food and peer knowledge exchanges.

2 On Sept 17th 2020 Glasgow City Council approved Let’s Grow Together- [A Food Growing Strategy for Glasgow](#)

The vision for the Food Growing Strategy (FGS) remains “*that Glasgow citizens wishing to grow their own fruit and vegetables will have access to a range of community growing opportunities in their area*”.

The FGS Action Plan was subsequently approved by Glasgow City Council on June 8th, 2021.

Since 2016, 15 engagement events were held across the city, to get the views of allotmenters, community growers and fellow Glaswegians on how food growing in the city should be supported and enhanced. Based on this feedback, the strategy outlines how we will support current community growing provision, develop additional sites for use and support new approaches to growing. In addition, it will also show growers how to get projects off the ground and how to start growing their own fruit and vegetables. It also identifies key organisations that can help and guide growers through the processes involved.

The Strategy shows our aspirations for community growing and how we intend to meet our obligations under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. The Act places new duties and functions on public sector authorities including allotment regulations and a requirement to prepare and publish an annual allotments report. The following report is for allotments on land owned or leased by Glasgow City Council (for the purpose of allotment provision) for the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023.

An allotment is defined in Part 9 of the Act as land that:

- Is owned or leased by a local authority (or leased or intended for lease by a person from the authority);
- Is used or intended for use wholly or mainly for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs, or flowers; and
- Is used or is intended for use otherwise than with a view to making a profit.

Section 121 of the Act requires Local Authorities to provide an Annual Allotment Report to the Scottish Government detailing:

- The location and size of each allotment site,
- The number of allotments on each allotment site
- Where the whole of an allotment site is leased from the authority by one person, the proportion of land on the allotment site (excluding any land falling within paragraph (b) of the definition of “allotment site” in section 108) that is not subleased from the tenant of the allotment site,
- Where allotments on an allotment site are leased from the authority by more than one person, the proportion of land on the allotment site (excluding any land falling within paragraph (b) of the definition of “allotment site” in section 108) that is not leased from the authority,

Where an allotment site is leased by the local authority-

- The period of the lease of each allotment site, and
- The rent payable under the lease by the authority,
- the period of any lease between the authority and the tenant of an allotment site,
- The rent payable under any lease between the authority and the tenant of an allotment site,
- The rent payable for each allotment in the area of the authority,
- How, in the opinion of the authority, such rents are decided by reference to the method of determining fair rent provided for in regulations under section 115(1),
- The number of persons entered in the list maintained under section 111(1) on the final day of the reporting year to which the report relates,
- The number of persons mentioned in paragraph (j) who, on the final day of the reporting year to which the report relates, have been entered in the list mentioned in that paragraph for a continuous period of more than 5 years.

Table 1: Current Plot/Site Distribution

	Site name	Site Location	Post Code	Site Size (Ha)	Number of allotments per site	Size of land not leased (m ²) (i.e., Communal land, internal footpaths, event space, parking toilets etc.)	Proportion of land not leased (i.e., Communal land, internal footpaths, event space toilets, parking verges etc.) (%)
1	Balornock Allotments	Drumbottie Road, Glasgow	G21 4YB	0.8	31	1367	17
2	Beechwood Allotments	Beechwood Drive, Glasgow	G11 7HJ	0.8	39	1832	23
3	Bellahouston Demonstration Garden	Bellahouston Park, Dumbreck Rd, Glasgow	G41 5BW	0.26	32	1041	40
4	Budhill and Springboig Allotments	Gartochoer Road, Glasgow	G32 0HW	1.6	75	2439	15
5	Croftburn Allotments	Croftburn Drive, Glasgow	G44 5HU	1.17	73	4949	42
6	Germiston Allotments	Royston Road, Glasgow	G21 2DJ	0.4	19	2314	58
7	Growchapel	Halgreen Ave, Glasgow	G15 8AL	0.6	44	2658	44

8	Hamiltonhill Allotments	Ellesmere Street, Glasgow	G22 5LZ	0.7	48	1034	15
9	High Carntyne Allotments	Duchray Street, Glasgow. G33 2DD	G33 2DD	1.1	35	4842	44
10	Kelvinside/Julian Avenue Allotments	Julian Avenue, Glasgow	G12 0RB	1	62	2638	26
11	Kelvinside/Kirklee Allotments	Kirklee Rd at Kirklee Gate, Glasgow	G12 0SS	1.1	67	172	2
12	Kennyhill Allotments	Dinart Street/Duchray Street, Glasgow	G32 2DD	1.2	48	2149	18
13	Kingsway Court	Danes Drive, Glasgow	G14 9AH	0.1	35	660	66
14	Mansewood Allotments	Burnfield Road/Barrmill Road, Glasgow	G43 1EJ	1.17	72	1638	14
15	Merrylee Allotments	Ardle Road, Glasgow	G43 2QE	1.7	106	1599	9
16	New Victoria Gardens Allotments	Glenapp Street, Glasgow	G41 2NU	1.3	73	2449	19
17	Oatlands Gate Allotments	Caledonia Road, Glasgow	G5 0LF	0.3	32	504	17

18	Oatlands Leisure Gardens Allotments	Logan Gardens, Glasgow	G5 0HP	0.2	20	205	10
19	Petershill Allotments	Southloch Street, Glasgow	G21 4AL	0.4	20	445	11
20	Queens Park Allotments	Langside Avenue Queens Park, Glasgow	G42 9QL	1.1	72	644	6
21	Reidvale Allotments	Reidvale Street, Glasgow	G31 1SJ	0.2	31	216	11
22	Rodney Street (Phase 1)	Rodney Street	G4 9SF	0.07	12	70	10
23	Shettleston Growing Project	Ardgay Street, Glasgow	G32 7A	0.2	72	1211	61
24	Sighthill Allotments	Fountainwell Road	G21 1TN	0.2	20	328	15
25	Sir John Stirling-Maxwell Allotments	Bankhead, 2060 Pollokshaws Rd, Pollok Park, Glasgow	G41 4BE	1.2	126	1308	11
26	South Western Allotments	Dumbreck Road, Pollok Park, Glasgow	G41 4SN	1.9	91	1049	6
27	Tollcross Park Allotments	Muiryfauld Drive, Tollcross Park, Glasgow	G31 5LN	0.6	45	1295	22

28	Trinley Brae Allotments	Trinley Brae/Knightswood Road, Glasgow	G13 2BS	0.8	39	3739	47
29	Victoria Park Allotments	Northland Drive, Glasgow	G14 9PF	2.5	64	12851	51
30	Wellhouse Allotments	Wellhouse Crescent, Glasgow	G33 4JZ	0.1	11	132	13.2
31	Westthorn Allotments	London Rd, Glasgow	G31 4QA	1.6	62	4482	28
32	Yoker Allotments	Sandholm Place, Glasgow	G14 0HG	0.5	25	3080* (2480)	62 revised to 50
33	Yorkhill Growing Space	Centurion Way, Glasgow	G3 8QX	0.2	20	1259	63
34	Greyfriars Garden	High St, Glasgow	G4 0QS	0.2	57	460	225
			TOTAL	27.27	1678		

* 600m² under development

Variances from last year's report are accounted for by plot realignment.

3 Period of Lease and Annual Rent

The period of any lease between Glasgow City Council and an allotment tenant is from the date of entry until 31 March (previously 31 December) each year and thereafter yearly until terminated.

Due to the new rental charges coming into force at the start of financial year 2024/5 the missive period will run from 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2025.

When determining the level of rent, the Council takes account of the size of the Allotment Plot, the services provided by, or on behalf of, the Council to the Tenants of the Allotment Sites, site improvements and upgrades by the Council, expenses incurred by the authority in maintaining and managing the allotment site, and any other relevant factors including SIMD Data zones. The annual fees to rent an allotment plot from 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2025 are as follows:

Table 2 – Annual Plot Rental Charges

Plot Size	Size	Rental Price (£)	Concessionary Price (£)
Full Plot	125 - 250m ²	61.60	42.80
Half Plot	50 - 125m ²	30.80	23.60
Fractional/Micro Plot/Raised Bed	Less than 50m ²	17.25	No concession available

It should be noted that rental charges for allotments have not been increased since 2010.

4 Where an allotment site is leased by the local authority—

- Of the lease of each allotment site,
- And the rent payable under the lease by the authority

Glasgow City Council leases the Kelvinside/Kirklee Allotment Site from the University of Glasgow with a rolling annual renewal of the lease. Glasgow City Council pays a lease fee of £30 p.a. for this site.

5 Section 111 of the Act, Duty to Maintain a List

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires local authorities to take reasonable steps to ensure that:

- The number of applicants on their allotment waiting list is no more than half of the total number of allotment plots; and
- And that an applicant is not on the waiting list for a continuous period of more than 5 years.

In February 2024 there are 1823 applicants on the allotment waiting list for 1678 plots. The ratio of 92% significantly exceeding the Act's trigger ratio of 50%. Please note these figures do not include the provision available from community gardens, market gardens, and other alternative growing opportunities available within the City.

Discussions are ongoing with a software provider to develop additional functionality to provide a coherent universal application form for use by all individual applicants that will link them to the relevant available plots for letting in a clean and efficient manner.

Reasonable steps taken by Glasgow City Council to increase provision include:

- 20 plots allocated at the newly opened Sighthill Allotments
- 12 plots created at Rodney Street with 12 more plots expected as part of the Phase 2 of the development of the site.
- Supporting delivery of the Community Food Theme of the City Food Plan
- Make best use of the information and resources available; including the 'Let's Grow Together- A Food Growing Strategy for Glasgow 2020-2025' to direct existing resources and access new resources.
- Developing working groups with -
 - Local Housing Organisations
 - Internal Officers
 - Community Food Growers to:
- Identify and secure additional resources to support the increase of allotment provision by Glasgow City Council.
- Signpost and support Community Organisations to secure funding to increase Food Growing opportunities.
- Encourage Food Growing to be incorporated into Outdoor Learning by developing CPD days in conjunction with the Royal Horticultural Society, for Teaching staff, to ensure they have the necessary skills to teach food growing to pupils in school grounds.
- Provide funding via The Let's Grow Together Fund to encourage the development of food growing opportunities by grassroots community organisations.
- Collaborate with Glasgow Community Food Growing Network to support growers to identify suitable land for the development of Food Growing Spaces.
- Develop the Let's Grow Together Storyboard to provide information, advice guidance and support for those on waiting lists and those keen to start food growing.
- Support other landowners such GGCNHS, Faith Groups, Colleges, and Universities to provide land for Allotments/Food Growing Spaces.

In support of community empowerment and providing a sense of agency, Glasgow City Council will continue to work with allotment associations to keep up to date waiting list data including date of application.

Whilst most allotment associations have provided waiting list information when requested there are currently twelve allotment associations who have been unable to provide allotment waiting list information to populate the reporting requirements to the Scottish Government. We would note our understanding is that the information held on these twelve association waiting lists cannot be understood to meet the requirements under Section 109 of the CEA (Scotland) 2015.

Further anomalies impacting on the accuracy of figures being returned include 315 applicants who have not provided a postal address which means verification of their application cannot be completed as current allotment provision is available only to residents within the boundary of the Local Authority and a further 14 applicants who are not eligible as their postal address recorded is out with the Glasgow City boundary.

This information is detailed in Table 3 below.

The consultation process on the updating of Glasgow City Council's Allotment Rules and Regulations has recently been completed. The document sets out the personal and other information the Council plans to collect when citizens make an application to rent an allotment plot on a site owned or leased by Glasgow City Council.

Table 3 – Waiting List Data by Ward
According to data available at the time of publishing this document.

Ward Number	Ward Name	Number of Allotment Sites covered by Community Empowerment legislation within Ward	Number of individual residents on one or more allotment waiting lists (by electoral Ward)
1	Linn	Croftburn	36
2	Newlands/Auldburn	Mansewood, Merrylee, Sir John Maxwell, South Western Allotments	41
3	Greater Pollock		13
4	Cardonald		16
5	Govan		24
6	Pollokshields	New Victoria Gardens, Bellahouston Demo Garden	238
7	Langside		187
8	Southside Central	Oatlands Gate, Oatlands Leisure Gardens, Queens Park	232
9	Calton	Westthorn, Reidvale	45

10	Anderston/City/Yorkhill	Centurion Way, Greyfriars Garden	56
11	Hillhead		80
12	Victoria Park	Beechwood, Victoria Park	180
13	Garscadden/Scotstoun	Yoker, Kingsway Court	62
14	Drumchapel/Anniesland	Growchapel, Trinley Brae	48
15	Maryhill		46
16	Canal	Hamiltonhill	36
17	Springburn/Robroyston	Petershill	5
18	East Centre	Budhill, High Carntyne, Kennyhill	26
19	Shettleston	Tollcross Park, Shettleston Growing Project	23
20	Ballieston	Wellhouse	0
21	North East	Balornock	11
22	Dennistoun	Germiston	29
23	Partick East/Kelvindale	Kirklee, Julian Avenue	186
	No address given		190
	Not within GCC Area		13
		Total	1823

Please see Action plan to address Waiting lists.

6 Section 115 of the Act, Allotment site regulations

Officers from Glasgow City Council have facilitated a series of incrementally more focused engagement processes which can be summarised as follows:

In 2016, tenants' aspirations for Allotments in Glasgow informed the [Glasgow Allotments Says](#) report delivered by Pidgeon Perfect. One of the opportunities emerging from this exercise was for clearer governance processes to better support growers and allotment association committee members in their roles. The specific governance topics highlighted thereafter informed the ongoing consultative process.

In 2017, the citywide research and engagement process delivered by Here & Now informed the [GoGrow Glasgow](#) Report. These catered drop-in events took place throughout the city. They were held in person; and were intended to be an open forum to garner the views of as many growers as possible.

In 2019 Greenspace Scotland were commissioned to facilitate a series of 8 thematic workshops citywide to provide information that was incorporated into the development of the Food Growing Strategy for Glasgow. The summary report from this process can be viewed here: [greenspace Scotland Summary Report](#)

It should be highlighted that there was a pause in engagement activity at this stage considering pandemic restrictions, with other elements of the Food Growing Strategy being developed during this period.

Informed by the above, and by the subsequent publication of Scottish Government Guidance, officers commenced the first of a two-stage engagement and consultation process with allotment association representatives. A series of workshops were held in October and November 2022 to develop a collective understanding of existing rules and regulations, constitutions and governance documents utilised by allotment associations to manage sites and an updated set of Rules and Regulations empowering growing communities.

The second stage of the engagement process comprised an online survey with current tenants, those on waiting list where contact details were available to officers, and those appearing to the Local Authority to have an interest. Hard copies and other accessible formats of the online consultation were made available and opportunities for in person representation were also made available on request. The online survey was open between 5th September 2023 and 30th October 2023, reaching out to approximately 3000 citizens.

Please see Appendix IV for the proposed Allotment Rules and Regulations.

7 Section 123, Delegation of Management of Allotment Sites

Delegation of Management of Allotment Sites requires a person who represents the interests of all or a majority of the tenants to make a request to the local authority that the authority delegate to the person any of the authority's functions in relation to the allotment site which are as follows but not limited to:

Section 109(7) (request to lease allotment),
Section 111(1) (duty to maintain list)
Section 116(9) and (10) (display and copies of allotment site regulations),
Section 124 (promotion and use of allotments: expenditure),

the giving of notice under—

Section 126(1) (notice of termination of lease of allotment or allotment site),
Section 127(2)(b) (notice of resumption),
Section 128(2) (notice of termination: sublease by Local Authority).

It is envisaged that the specific delegated management arrangements may vary site by site and will build on the approach to community empowerment and capacity building through management of Glasgow City Council owned assets already underway through the People Make Glasgow Communities process. It is envisaged that timescales will be informed by the resources from both allotment associations and officers participating at each step of the process, as with other activities associated with the Food Growing Strategy

requiring input from both allotment associations and officers. It is recognised that this will take a period of time, with the status quo prevailing in the interim.

8 Income and Expenditure

During the year from 1 Jan 2022 to 31 December 2022, in connection with allotment sites, the council received income of £26,400.00 and incurred expenditure of £116,000. The income includes fees for rent and the expenditure includes officer's time in the administration and management of the allotment service.

A further expenditure of £299,000 was incurred in increasing allotment provision as we strive to meet our statutory obligations. Training of new plot holders also incurred a spend of £5,000 in the same year.

9 Benefits of Allotments

The benefits of allotments are multi-faceted and cross-cutting as food growing, distribution and consumption touches on so many aspects of everyday life and Local Authority service provision with implications for health and well-being, diet, food poverty, place-making, reducing 'food miles', intergenerational engagement, climate and ecological emergency responses, outdoor education, physical activity, soil management, mental health, greenspace management, community cohesion and empowerment, active citizenship, recycling of resources and biodiversity.

We will continue to support the networking and sharing of resources which make such outcomes achievable.