

Annual Allotments Report 2022**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 2022 to 31st December 2022

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.

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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.

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Table 1: Current Plot/Site Distribution

	Site name	Site Location	Post Code	Site Size (Ha)	Number of allotments per site (Based on GIS data from 2021)	Size of land not leased (m2) (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	52	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	69	2439	15
5	Croftburn Allotments	Croftburn Drive, Glasgow.	G44 5HU	1.17	73	4949	42
6	Germiston Allotments	Royston Rd, Glasgow.	G21 2DJ	0.4	18	2314	58
7	Growchapel	Halgreen Ave, Glasgow.	G15 8AL	0.6	40	2658	44

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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	109	1638	14
15	Merrylee Allotments	Ardle Rd, Glasgow.	G43 2QE	1.7	102	1599	9
16	New Victoria Gardens Allotments	Glenapp Street, Glasgow.	G41 2NU	1.3	62	2449	19
17	Oatlands Gate Allotments	Caledonia Road, Glasgow.	G5 0LF	0.3	31	504	17

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18	Oatlands Leisure Gardens Allotments	Logan Gardens, Glasgow.	G5 0HP	0.2	16	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	Shettleston Growing Project	Ardgay Street, Glasgow.	G32 7A.	0.2	72	1211	61
23	Sir John Stirling-Maxwell Allotments	Bankhead, 2060 Pollokshaws Rd, Pollok Park, Glasgow.	G41 4BE	1.2	126	1308	11
24	South Western Allotments	Dumbreck Road, Pollok Park, Glasgow.	G41 4SN	1.9	91	1049	6
25	Tollcross Park Allotments	Muiryfauld Drive, Tollcross Park, Glasgow.	G31 5LN	0.6	45	1295	22
26	Trinley Brae Allotments	Trinley Brae/Knightswood Road, Glasgow.	G13 2BS	0.8	40	3739	47

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27	Victoria Park Allotments	Northland Drive, Glasgow.	G14 9PF	2.5	65	12851	51
28	Wellhouse Allotments	Wellhouse Crescent, Glasgow.	G33 4JZ	0.1	11	132	13.2
29	Westthorn Allotments	London Rd, Glasgow.	G31 4QA	1.6	63	4482	28
30	Yoker Allotments	Sandholm Place, Glasgow.	G14 0HG	0.5	24	3080* (2480)	62 revised to 50
31	Yorkhill Growing Space	Centurion Way, Glasgow.	G3 8QX	0.2	20	1259	63
32	Greyfriars Garden	High St, Glasgow	G4 0QS	0.2	47	460	225
			TOTAL		1657		

* 600m2 under development

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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 31st December each year and thereafter yearly until terminated.

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 2022 to 31st December 2022 are as follows:

Table 2 – Annual Plot Rental Charges

Plot Size	Size	Rental Price (£)	Concessionary Price (£)
Full Plot	150 - 250m ²	34.50	25.00
Half Plot	75-125m ²	17.35	12.50
Fractional/Micro Plot/Raised Bed	Below 50m ²	£8.65	No concession available

It should be noted that rental charges for allotments have been held at the above rates 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 that an applicant is not on the waiting list for a continuous period of more than 5 years.

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In the recent era there has been a significant increase in the number of applications for allotments with one factor identified as being the consequence of the Coronavirus lockdown restrictions. It would appear that lockdown has resulted in more people wishing to be outdoors in the natural environment.

In March 2020 there were 1100 applicants on the allotment waiting list for 1050 plots (a ratio of 104%). This has since dramatically increased to there now being 1790 recorded applicants on the allotment waiting list. The current number of allotment plots is 1610 which means the ratio has increased to 106%, 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 allotment associations that will in turn populate a database that will inform ongoing Annual Allotment Reports and provide universal administrative functions across all allotment associations on landowner or leased by GCC for the purpose of providing allotment provision.

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

- 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.
- Supporting delivery of the Community Food Theme of the City Food Plan
- 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
- Transfer surplus Local Authority resources to Social Enterprises to support increased opportunities for Food Growing.
- 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.

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- 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 Association 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 12 allotment associations who have been unable to provide allotment waiting list information to populate the reporting requirements to the Scottish Government.

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.

With that said, Glasgow City Council has recently embarked on initial engagement with Allotment Associations across the City to update the Rules and Regulations for the Management of Allotments on land owned or leased by the Local Authority for the provision of allotments. These discussions include Delegation of Allotment Management Duties and agreement will be reached on waiting list data to ensure future reports to the Scottish Government will be fully informed.

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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	28
2	Newlands/Auldburn	Mansewood, Merrylee, Sir John Maxwell, South Western Allotments	39
3	Greater Pollock		12
4	Cardonald		14
5	Govan		24
6	Pollokshields	New Victoria Gardens, Bellahouston Demo Garden	192
7	Langside		146
8	Southside Central	Oatlands Gate, Oatlands Leisure Gardens, Queens Park	203
9	Calton	Westthorn, Reidvale	39
10	Anderston/City/Yorkhill	Centurion Way, Greyfriars Garden	57
11	Hillhead		75
12	Victoria Park	Beechwood, Victoria Park	184
13	Garscadden/Scotstoun	Yoker, Kingsway Court	66
14	Drumchapel/Anniesland	Growchapel, Trinley Brae	53
15	Maryhill		47
16	Canal	Hamiltonhill	34
17	Springburn/Robroyston	Petershill	5
18	East Centre	Budhill, High Carntyne, Kennyhill	12
19	Shettleston	Tollcross Park, Shettleston Growing Project	26
20	Ballieston	Wellhouse	1
21	North East	Balornock	8
22	Dennistoun	Germiston	10
23	Partick East/Kelvindale	Kirklee, Julian Avenue	186
	No address given		315
	Not within GCC Area		14

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		Total	1790

Please see Appendix I for Action plan to address Waiting lists

6 Income and Expenditure

During the year from 1st Jan 2022 to 31st 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 ploholders also incurred a spend of £5,000 in the same year.

7 Engagement

As mentioned in the introduction to this this report, from 2016, Glasgow City Council has carried out 15 engagement events to listen to and understand Food Growers aspirations to inform development of the Let's Grow Together- A Food Growing Strategy for Glasgow. This has provided the vision and an action plan for delivering on the aims of the Food Growing Strategy providing a commitment to developing food growing opportunities in every electoral ward within the Local Authority boundary.

Further to this the Food Growing Team at Glasgow City Council have recently embarked on a series of informal engagement events to commence discussions on updating Rules and Regulations for the Management of Allotment Sites and also on the Delegation of Management of Allotment Sites with Allotment Association Committee members.

It is intended that further engagement events will be held throughout 2023 with other plot holders, those on waiting lists and other interested parties such as Glasgow Allotment Forum amongst others.

These discussions will provide opportunities for a collaborative approach to be delivered to adopting updated Rules and Regulations and to provide a range of opportunities for delegated functions to be delivered by Allotment Associations in keeping with the ethos of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

8 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,

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greenspace management, community cohesion and empowerment, active citizenship, recycling of resources and biodiversity.

Recent gluts on allotments have been distributed to local Pantry Networks providing a rare opportunity for fresh produce to be available via the Pantry Networks to those in need through circumstances of socio-economic disadvantage.

<https://www.scottishpantrynetwork.org.uk/>

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

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