



Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee
Thursday 22nd October 2020

REPORT TITLE:	Allotment Provision Scrutiny Review
REPORT OF:	Director of Neighbourhood Services

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the findings and recommendations arising from a scrutiny review of Allotment Provision across Wirral. This review was commissioned as part of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee's work programme in 2019/20.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee is requested to approve the recommendations contained within the Allotment Provision Scrutiny Review report of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee and determine what actions are to be taken, if any, in light of the recommendations

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To enable the recommendations of the Allotment Provision Scrutiny Review Panel to be considered by the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other options considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 As part of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee's annual work programme, a Task & Finish Scrutiny Review on the Allotment Provision on Wirral was established. The Review Panel was chaired by Councillor Tom Anderson.
- 3.2 In 2019/20, Members identified a number of issues relating to the current provision of Council allotments across the Borough; including the number of available plots, waiting lists and areas of particular pressure.
- 3.3 The key objectives set out at the start of the review were to fully understand existing capacity within allotment provision across the Borough, and how it can be maximised and/or expanded at current sites to provide improved access for all Wirral residents; to engage with allotment users and representatives of current allotment societies to recognise issues currently faced and how these might be addressed; and to contribute to a series of recommendations to ensure the effective management and provision of allotment sites across Wirral.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications, although there may be costs associated with actions arising from this report and implementation of recommendations if agreed.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no direct resource implications, although there may be resource implications as a result of actions arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 A number of risks were identified as part of the scoping exercise for this review, details of which can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 As part of this review, representatives from Wirral Allotment Society and Wirral Site Secretaries group were invited to attend an engagement session to informally discuss the subject matter with Members of the Council and Council officers.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 This report is for information to Members and there are no direct equality implications, although there may be equality implications as a result of actions arising from this report. Equality Impact Assessments will be completed for any subsequent actions as appropriate.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The content and/or recommendations contained within this report are expected to reduce emissions of greenhouses gases by aiming to increase the number of allotment plots which will ultimately contribute to an increase in organic and sustainable food production and a reduction in the local reliance on imported goods.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Allotment Provision Scrutiny Review Report
Appendix 2 - Allotment Provision Scrutiny Review Scoping Document
Appendix 3 - State of the Market Survey 2020 : Local Authority Allotment Services

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Wirral Council Allotments Partnership Strategy & Improvement Plan 2015-2020
Wirral Council Site Secretary Agreement 2015
The King's Fund 'Gardens and Health; Implications for policy and practice' publication 2016

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	30 January 2020