

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee - 1 July 2009

**REPORT ON:** Allotment Consultation Document

**REPORT BY:** Director of Leisure and Communities

**REPORT NO:** 357-2009

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise the committee of the Allotment Consultation Document.
- 1.2 To seek approval from the committee for the Director of Leisure and Communities to undertake consultation with a broad range of Allotment Stakeholders.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the committee agrees to the circulation of the Allotment Consultation Document to Allotment Societies, plot holders and interested organisations, with the objective of producing a Dundee Allotment Strategy which will be presented for approval at a subsequent committee.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 None.

### **4.0 MAIN TEXT**

- 4.1 A copy of the Consultative Document is attached. This document has been prepared to outline the current position of allotment management and provision in Dundee, identify current demand for plots, examine current and best practise for allotments, taking forward recommendations contained in the COSLA 'Allotment Guidance Notes for Scottish Allotments' issued in 2007.

It is the intention of the Consultative Document that it raises specific issues relating to allotments, these include benefits of allotments, management of allotments in Dundee, security on allotments, current demand for allotments, funding and future developments.

- 4.2 The Consultative Document discusses a number of actions to take forward proposals for the development of Allotments and to develop a constructive and ongoing partnership between the Council and Plot Holders.

### **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

### **6.0 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Head of Finance have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

**7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None

**STEWART MURDOCH**  
**DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES**  
15 June 2009

# ALLOTMENT CONSULTATION DOCUMENT



*Old Craigie Road Allotments Winner 2008*

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Consultation Document is to initiate a discussion on the provision of allotments in Dundee. The document outlines the current position of allotment management and provision in Dundee, identify demand for plots, examine best practise for allotments, taking forward recommendations contained in the COSLA 'Allotments in Scotland Guidance Notes for Scottish Councils', issued June 2007.

In addition the document will address any specific issues relating to allotments and put in place an audit of all allotments with a view to preparing an Action Plan for the development and Improvement of Allotments in Dundee over the five years 2009-2014.

It is the Council's intention to develop a constructive and ongoing partnership between the Council and Plot Holders, Allotment Associations, The Dundee Federation of Allotment Societies and The Scottish Allotment and Garden Society. It is recognised that any improvements to the provision of allotments in Dundee will need to be a partnership between Dundee City Council, the Allotment Associations, Plot Holders and External Funders and Agencies. Without this partnership it is difficult to foresee any major improvements to the provision of allotments in Dundee.

**Recommendation:**

A working group should be established to direct this consultation and bring forward an allotment strategy for Dundee.

## 1.2 Background

Allotments originated in the 19th Century as a means of self improvement for working people to cultivate land, grow their own food and supplement their diets. Allotments have evolved through a varied history of social and economic change.

The status of allotments was recognised and finalised by the Allotments (Scotland) Act 1892, which placed a duty upon a Council to make provision in response to local demand.

During the First World War, Local Authorities created new allotments in urban areas to counter food shortages and during the Second World War 'Dig for Victory Campaign', this was further expanded.

Nationally the popularity of allotments decreased in the 1950's and 60's and although new allotments were created in Dundee in the 1970's and 80's eg South Road, these were closed in the 1990's because they were unpopular and underutilised, other sites to close included part of Stirling Park Allotments and Arklay Terrace Allotments.

Due to a desire from people to know the origin of their food and because of the recent rise in cost of food prices there has been resurgence in demand for allotments Scotland-wide and in Dundee. This had led to increased waiting lists on the developed, managed and council managed allotment sites. To meet this demand the council will need to investigate the possibility of providing new or alternative sites. Recent changes in Scottish Planning Policy SPP11 and the introduction of the COSLA Guidelines for allotments will have an influence on the future management of allotments.

## **2. BENEFITS OF ALLOTMENTS**

### **2.1 Benefits / Value of Allotments**

Allotments were originally created to allow families to grow their own food and supplement their diets, however, the benefits of allotments are not confined to individual plot holders and there are a number of environmental and social benefits that cover wider areas of the community and benefits that could potentially support Dundee City Council's efforts towards sustainable development.

### **2.2 Biodiversity**

Allotments have a major role to play in the protection and promotion of biodiversity. Many plants grown in allotments, such as fruit trees and bushes depend on insects to pollinate them in order for there to be good crops. This is highlighted in the Tayside Biodiversity Publication 'Biodiversity in Community Gardens, Orchards and Allotments'. The document identifies allotments as especially important habitats for wildlife as they provide food, shelter and breeding sites.

**Recommendation:**

Encourage Allotment Societies and plot holders to work with the Tayside Biodiversity Officer in developing individual biodiversity plans for each allotment.

### **2.3 Sustainability**

Allotments have the potential to make a contribution to the sustainability of the city by promoting and facilitating composting and demonstrating sustainable practises eg rainwater collection, recycling and reduced use of pesticides. Allotments also contribute to sustainability by the reduced transport costs and emissions through production of local fruit and vegetables.

**Recommendation:**

The Leisure and Communities Department, Plot Holders, Associations and The Dundee Federation of Allotment Societies should work together with Dundee City Council Waste Management Department to promote effective recycling and composting initiatives for each allotment site.

### **2.4 Healthy Living**

The NHS 'Best Value Review of Nutrition in Tayside 2008' identified that in Tayside only 22% of woman and 15% of men consumed 5 portions of fruit or vegetables a day and that the average male consumption in Tayside was 2.7 portions of fruit or vegetables a day. Allotment gardening provides the opportunity of a year round healthy lifestyle, unlike other activities it not only provides exercise, mental relaxation and lifelong learning opportunities, but also the fresh fruit and vegetables that benefit healthier lifestyle.

**Recommendation:**

The Council continues to work closely with NHS Tayside to promote allotment gardening as part of healthy living initiatives.

Although allotments are appealing to a wide section of the population, they still tend to be associated with older people and allotment gardening provides key exercise to potentially vulnerable individuals. Allotment Gardens also have an important role to play in providing social interaction between older people, the unemployed and increasingly those with mental health problems. Gardening is highly therapeutic. The NHS recognises its contribution to the promotion of wellbeing. Allotments are also a useful tool in providing lifelong learning skills. At Kinnaird Allotments in Dundee two plots are used by trainees aged between 15 and 18 who are not in full-time education or employment to help develop vocational and personal skills for healthy living.

**Recommendation:**

Leisure and Communities Department work with Allotment Associations to provide and promote allotment plots to organisations that work with the vulnerable or disadvantaged to help individuals develop vocational, inter personal skills, healthier lifestyles and wellbeing.



*Looking up the Law from Stirling Park*

### **3. LEGISLATION / NATIONAL LOCAL POLICY GUIDELINES**

#### **3.1 National Legislation**

The principle statute governing allotments is the Allotments (Scotland) Act 1892, which was amended by the Land Settlement (Scotland) Act 1919 and the Allotments (Scotland) Acts of 1922 and 1950.

The provision of allotments is a matter for Local Authorities, whose powers are defined in the Allotments Acts. Local Authorities are obliged to provide allotments if there is a proven need, through land they own. A Local Authority may also acquire land for the purposes of the Allotments Acts by purchase agreement or compulsory purchase, lease, temporary use and adaptation of land. In addition a Local Authority may appoint an allotments committee to carry out its functions under the 1922 Act.

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to make provision, where necessary, for access to allotments and allotment gardens by suitable paths or roads.

They are also required to keep a register of all tenancies and to make up accounts of receipts and expenditure which are available for inspection by rate payers.

#### **3.2 Cosla Guidelines**

The Cosla Guidance for Allotments has been drafted following a recommendation by the Scottish Parliament Local Government Committee in its report on its enquiry into Allotments. The Guidance sets out the benefits of allotments and places these within the wider council targets such as sustainability and healthy living. It is intended to demonstrate the value of allotments, through doing so encourage councils to take steps to promote their use. The guidance makes a number of recommendations to Local Authorities in respect of managing allotments. These have been incorporated into this document.

Recommendation: Ensure provision of a transparent and efficient service to allotment holders.
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#### **3.3 Local and National Policies**

In addition to any statutory legislation that is specific to allotments, there are a number of National / Local Strategies, Policies and Guidelines that relate to allotments.

In the recently published Scottish Planning Policy SPP11: Open Space and Physical Activity, Local Authorities should assess how well the needs of the communities are being met and identify any changes needed to improve access to quality open space. To assist in this Policy Local Authorities must undertake a comprehensive open space audit. Using the information from the audit each Local Authority must prepare an Open Space Strategy. The purpose of the Strategy is to set out a vision for new and improved open space which is appropriate to local circumstances. The completed Strategy should safeguard valued open space and guide the allocation of resources.

Planning Advice Note 65 Planning and Open Space advising Local Authorities on Open Space Strategies. It advises that when assessing current and future requirements a demand-led approach is suited to those spaces for which a quantifiable demand can be identified, for example, sports facilities and functional spaces such as cemeteries and allotments. This should allow the Local Authority to consult relevant user groups on carrying out the necessary servicing work to establish demand for facilities.



**Recommendation:**

Ensure that in the formation of future local plans, allotments are considered separately from other forms of green space.

That Dundee City Council adopts an 'Early Warning System' to alert officers with responsibility for allotments to any planning application that might impact on allotment sites.

### **3.4 Open Space Strategy**

The recently reviewed and updated Dundee Open Space Strategy identifies, as an objective, the need to develop and promote the role and use of allotment gardens and remits the Council Officers to produce Allotment Policies to tackle as a priority unpopular sites and assess where there is a demand for new allotments.

The Scottish Government is currently preparing a National Food and Drink Policy, any recommendations from this policy with regard to allotments will be included into a Dundee Allotment Strategy.

On 16 October 2008, following points raised during discussion on the National Food and Drink Policy the Scottish Government announced that they are asking a number of public bodies to consider how the land they manage for the Scottish Government could be made available to Local Authorities to increase the number of allotments in Scotland.



*Cleington Garden Allotment Winner 2008*

## **4. MANAGEMENT OF ALLOTMENTS IN DUNDEE**

### **4.1 Management**

The role of each Local Authority as a provider of allotments may vary considerably. In Dundee allotments are provided in three different ways, by the City Council, Devolved Management by Allotment Associations and Privately Owned and Managed Allotments (Appendix 1, p26). Each management method has its own advantages and disadvantages.

Direct Management helps to maintain allotments as a priority within a Local Authority and may help in securing capital revenue budgets for investment and repairs. It also ensures that plot holders can be assured of fair and equitable treatment.

Devolved management of allotments tends to encourage plot holders to be more self-sufficient and increases their sense of ownership. Devolved management associations may also have better access and be more creative when seeking external funds for improvements etc.

### **4.2 Devolved Management of Allotments in Dundee by Societies**

There are six allotment sites in Dundee with responsibility for a total of 422 plots. Each Association has an individual lease normally of ten years, which is negotiated through the Council's Economic Development Department.

In the early 1990's, finances were made available to improve the interior paths and fencing through 'non recurring budgets' by the previous Parks Department. However, since that period there has been very little investment and an increasing number of issues and concerns have emerged in recent years.

In most of the allotment leases there is a responsibility on the City Council for the maintenance of fences and internal paths, this has put pressure on Department resources to deliver these repairs, particularly to fences.

In addition, there have been a number of issues brought to the attention of Councillors and Council Officers where plot holders on association sites feel that they have not been treated fairly in respect of allocation and termination of plots.

In some cases there have been suggestions that the Associations do not encourage the active engagement of plot holders and that their affairs are not sufficiently open to the community they serve.

**Recommendation:**

Dundee City Council should ensure that site associations are properly constituted and that the terms of their constitution ensure a fair, objective and non-discriminatory approach.

Dundee City Council should work with the Dundee Federation of Allotment Garden Associations to put in place a mechanism for resolving disputes that take place within allotment associations.

### **4.3 Direct Managed by Dundee City Council**

There are currently four sites with a total number of 53 plots centrally managed by Dundee City Council, Leisure and Communities Department.

These allotments are administered by the Leisure and Communities Department's Booking Section, the monitoring of the condition of the allotments and dealing with complaints and issues is undertaken by the Parks Operations Section. Allotments are inspected, at the minimum, on an annual basis.

Payments for allotments is on an annual basis, but generates only a modest income. Repairs and Maintenance in the last 5 years has been relatively small as the allotment sites are expected to be self sustaining.

**Recommendations:**

That charges are benchmarked with allotments in other Local Authority areas.  
To assess whether Dundee allotment charges are appropriate.

The maintenance and retention of plots on Council Managed Sites has been an increasing problem in recent years. Some sites eg Ancrum Road Allotments have a number of plots that are not maintained to a satisfactory standard. Whilst the plots are inspected on a regular basis, the timing of the renewal of lets and the issuing of missive of let does not always allow adequate time for a change of plot ownership prior to the new growing season.

**Recommendation**

To review the Council's missive of let to ensure that they are adequate for managing the Council's allotments and in addition give consideration to the movement of the renewal date to November to ensure that changes in plot holders can take place prior to a new growing season.

**Recommendation**

The working group should assess the potential benefit of creating associations for all sites to ensure consistency across the city.

In addition, to encourage plot holders to maintain and retain their plots, good practice guidelines should be produced and made available to all plot holders.

**Recommendation:**

To encourage improved management of individual plots, it is suggested that in partnership with The Dundee Federation of Allotment Gardens, 'A Good Practise Guide for Allotment Holders' is produced by Dundee City Council, based on a similar publication in England.

- Safety on site
- A guide to good practise in terms of plot cultivation and site management
- References for further information
- Contacts for associations, council departments, etc.
- Terms of Leases, etc.

#### **4.4 Private Allotments**

There are three privately owned and managed sites within Dundee with a total number of 126 plots. The Council has no responsibility for these sites, however, occasionally advice on funding issues etc is provided and these allotments will be taken into account within any policy and policy decisions made by the Council.

In the COSLA 'Allotments in Scotland Guidance Notes for Scottish Councils', it recommends a clear point of contact for queries relating to allotments. This will be undertaken through the following.

**Recommendation:**

The Leisure and Communities Booking Section will be the initial point of contact

- They will deal directly with booking issues
- Policy and strategy queries will be directed to the Leisure and Communities Environment Development Section
- Operational issues and complaints relating to Council managed allotments will be referred to the Leisure and Communities Parks Operation side.
- Enquiries relating to devolved managed sites and leases will be referred to the Head of Business Development and Support Services

## 5. SECURITY ON ALLOTMENTS

Allotment Security has been identified as a problem in many areas of the UK, with many sites suffering from incidents, vandalism and theft. Often the thefts are of items of relatively low monetary value, but the plot holder may feel just as violated as if his house had been vandalised or burgled.

Currently in Dundee the perimeter fencing to Council leased allotment sites are the responsibility of the Council as landlord, unfortunately over the years the finance available to the Council for allotment repairs has reduced radically. This has led to a number of perimeter fences falling into a state of poor repair leading to plot holders being of the view that plot security has reduced and that the Council are not doing sufficient to resolve the problem.

Improved perimeter fence security is one means of improving site security, although often very expensive and needing regular maintenance. Dundee City Council is currently investigating the best method to ensure that the perimeter fencing is adequate, this may include:

1. Increased capital expenditure by the Council, but this expenditure would need to be borrowed through the Prudential lending scheme and would result in much higher lease costs to allotment societies to fund this work.

Description	Costs per 100m
Chain link fence, plastic coated, 51mm x 1800mm high	£1900.00
Timber Palisade fence 22 x 75mm soft wood vertical paling with flat top 1800mm high	£3000.00
"Barbican" galvanised steel paling, 2000mm high	£7400.00
CLD 'Ultimate' profited panel system, polyester powder coated green 1.85m high, supply only quoted for	£3600.00

These costs are indicative only and are taken from Spon's external works and landscape price book, 26th edition, 2007. They provide comparative information only and any allotment site fence would require to be individually designed and costed.

2. The removal of the responsibility for perimeter fences from the Council as landlord placing it with the allotment societies, funding for fencing may be achieved by allotment societies through external funding or through an increase in plot rental fees.

**Recommendation**  
That the Council, working in partnership with the Allotment Societies, establish the most effective means of providing secure perimeter fences to allotment sites.

Other methods of reducing vandalism and theft have been identified by various allotment associations throughout the UK, these include:

1. Security lights / Cameras, where mains power is available infra red activated security lights may deter night time raiders. Security Cameras may offer a solution, but allotment sites in Dundee are often large and coverage could be difficult.
2. Increased Occupancy, Sites that have full occupancy and as a result more people out and about will help deter culprits from coming, but as a lot of vandalism and theft take place at night it will only be an assistance to the overall problems.
3. Post Code Tools / Tool and Shed Security. A number of allotment sites in the UK work within local community safety partnerships in schemes to post code tools, the chaining of tools together and ensuring that sheds are securely locked may also help prevent.
4. Stronger action against those who use Allotments for purposes other than those for which they were established - illegal drinking, BBQ's, storage of goods etc.

5. A number of allotment sites throughout the UK have also introduced community allotment watch schemes, these vary across the country, but one example in York involves:
- The production and distribution of 1,000 wallet sized cards containing emergency telephone numbers issued to users.
  - Colour post coding of tools and equipment to discourage thieves and help identification.
  - Sale of shed alarms and personal attack alarms.
  - Increased police patrols and community watch signs.

**Recommendation**

The Leisure and Communities Department and Allotment Societies work together with the Dundee Community Safety Partnership to help improve site security on all allotments across the city.



*City Road Allotment Winner 2008*

## 6. DEMAND FOR ALLOTMENTS

In December 2000 the Scottish Parliament, Local Government Committee decided to hold an inquiry into allotments, Dundee City Council was asked to provide a submission. At that time the Dundee City Council Allotment sites had 23 vacancies and the devolved management associations had only 2 names on the waiting list. Subsequent to the inquiry, a directly managed site at South Road with 19 plots was closed due to difficulties in letting these plots, reductions in the number of plots at Arklay Terrace was also undertaken for similar reasons.

In 2007 when the Department undertook a survey of its own sites and association sites, it identified a waiting list of 82. (A similar survey undertaken by the Scottish Allotment Gardening Society indicated a waiting list of 150).

The Department is currently undertaking a fresh survey of all sites in Dundee to monitor current demand.

In accordance with the Cosla guidelines it is recommended that:  
The Council regularly assess the number of plots within the city and monitor regularly the demand for them.

To ensure that there is an even distribution of waiting lists throughout the allotment sites in Dundee, the Leisure and Communities Department of the Council will:

Recommendation:  
Promote any underused sites to other allotment associations and monitor waiting lists.

When demand for allotments had reduced in the early 2000's, the lower part of the Stirling Park Allotment, which was underused, was leased to a group called the Old Piggeries Garden Club with the intention of a Community Garden being established on the site. Despite two different committees being formed, funding being received from the Big Lottery and support being given from the Leisure and Communities Department the garden is yet to be established. It is understood that the Old Piggeries Garden Club still have a substantial part of a twenty year lease with Dundee City Council.

With the increased demand for allotments and for people to grow their own food it is recommended:

Recommendation:  
To help meet allotment demand within Dundee, consideration should be given to bringing back into general use the allotments at South Road and Stirling Park, with half plots being provided as a starter into allotment gardening. A small number of plots could be retained at Stirling Park to provide a manageable sized community garden. In addition Leisure and Communities Officers are remitted to identify potential allotment sites in Parks and Open Spaces across the city.



*Bean poles, late spring,  
Stirling Park*

## 7. FUNDING AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Since the removal of the 'Non Recurring Budget', which helped finance improvement to paths and fencing there has been very little investment in allotments and an increasing number of complaints have emerged.

During this time there have been a number of national initiatives that relate to allotments. The Allotment Regeneration Initiative has been formed. This was initially a partnership between John Prescott's Department of Transport and the Environment, the Esmee Fairbairn Trust and City Farms and Community Gardens Association. Money was provided for regeneration projects. Dundee did apply for funding, but was not successful.

The ARI now provide information and support for Allotment Associations and also provide an Allotment Monitoring Scheme in Scotland, funded by the Big Lottery.

Locally City Road Allotment received a grant of £3,000 a few years ago and the Clepington Working Mens Allotment Association have been working with Economic Development with a view to obtaining funding for sustainable heating initiative for their club rooms.

Despite this money the City Allotments have lacked investment over the years, with poor security fencing, lack of good access, meeting and storage facilities and lack of adequate toilets being a problem.

**Recommendation:**

That an audit of services provided to all allotments within the city is undertaken by the Leisure and Communities Department. This should take into account:

- Finances
- Administration
- Infrastructure
  - Fencing
  - Access, Paths
  - Water Toilets
  - Composting / Recycling / Waste Management
  - Storage Facilities
  - Meeting / Community Facilities

Based on the findings of the audit it is recommended:

**Recommendation:**

That a five year action plan is prepared and that capital and external funding sources are explored to help develop and implement the plan.

The action plan should be monitored on an annual basis and fully reviewed every 5 years.

To implement the action plan it will be necessary to identify new sources of funding and to establish partnerships with External Agencies. It is clear that due to the financial restraints the Council alone will not be able to undertake the improvements required.

**Recommendation:**

In partnership with the Dundee Federation of Allotment Garden Association, to source future external funding for the improvements of allotments and where required improved provision. The search should be extended as widely as possible and should include encouraging allotment sites to undertake fundraising.

Although Dundee City Council advertises its allotments in places like Dundee Flower and Food Festival Schedule, there is not an organised promotion of allotments and there seems no reason why they should not take place.

**Recommendation:**

As part of the Allotments Action Plan prepare a plan for the promotion of allotments and the development of a programme.

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. A working group should be established to direct this consultation and bring forward an allotment strategy for Dundee.
2. Encourage Allotment Societies and plot holders to work with the Tayside Biodiversity Officer in developing individual biodiversity plans for each allotment.
3. The Leisure and Communities Department, Plot Holders, Associations and The Dundee Federation of Allotment Societies should work together with Dundee City Council Waste Management Department to promote effective recycling and composting initiatives for each allotment site.
4. The Council continues to work closely with NHS Tayside to promote allotment gardening as part of healthy living initiatives.
5. Leisure and Communities Department work with Allotment Associations to provide and promote allotment plots to organisations that work with the vulnerable or disadvantaged to help individuals develop vocational, inter personal skills, healthier lifestyles and wellbeing.
6. Ensure provision of a transparent and efficient service to allotment holders.
7. Ensure that in the formation of future local plans, allotments are considered separately from other forms of green space.  
That Dundee City Council adopts an 'Early Warning Scheme' to alert officers with responsibility for allotments to any planning application that might impact on allotment sites.
8. Dundee City Council should ensure that site associations are properly constituted and that the terms of their constitutions ensure a fair, objective and non-discriminatory approach.  
Dundee City Council should work with the Dundee Federation of Allotment Garden Associations to put in place a mechanism for resolving disputes that take place within allotment associations.
9. That charges are benchmarked with allotments in other Local Authority areas.  
To assess whether Dundee allotment charges are appropriate.
10. To review the Council's missive of let to ensure that they are adequate for managing the Council's allotments and in addition give consideration to the movement of the renewal date to November to ensure that changes in plot holders can take place prior to a new growing season.
11. The working group should assess the potential benefit of creating associations for all sites to ensure consistency across the city.
12. To encourage improved management of individual plots, it is suggested that in partnership with The Dundee Federation of Allotment Gardens, 'A Good Practise Guide for Allotment Holders' is produced by Dundee City Council, based on a similar publication in England.
  - Safety on site
  - A guide to good practise in terms of plot cultivation and site management
  - References for further information
  - Contacts for associations, council departments, etc.
  - Terms of Leases, etc.
13. The Leisure and Communities Booking Section will be the initial point of contact
  - They will deal directly with booking issues
  - Policy and strategy queries will be directed to the Leisure and Communities, Environment Development Section
  - Operational issues and complaints relating to Council managed allotments will be referred to the Leisure and Communities, Parks Operation side.
  - Enquiries relating to devolved managed sites and leases will be referred to the Head of Business Development and Support Services



14. That the Council, working in partnership with the Allotment Societies, establish the most effective means of providing secure perimeter fences to allotment sites.
15. The Leisure and Communities and Allotment Societies work together with the Dundee Community Partnership to help improve site security on all allotment sites across the city.
16. The Council regularly assess the number of plots within the city and monitor regularly the demand for them.
17. Promote any underused sites to other allotment associations and monitor waiting lists.
18. To help meet allotment demand within Dundee. Consideration should be given to bringing back into general use the allotment at South Road and Stirling Park, half plots being provided as a starter into allotment gardening. A small number of plots could be retained at Stirling Park to provide a manageable sized Community Garden. In addition Leisure and Communities Officers are remitted to identify potential allotment sites in Parks and Open Spaces across the city.
19. That an audit of services provided to all allotments within the city is undertaken by the Leisure and Communities Department. This should take into account:
  - Finances
  - Administration
  - Infrastructure
    - Fencing
    - Access, Paths
    - Water
    - Toilets
    - Composting / Recycling / Waste Management
    - Storage Facilities
    - Meeting / Community Facilities
20. That a five year action plan is prepared and that capital and external funding sources are explored to help develop and implement the action plan.  
The action plan should be monitored on an annual basis and fully reviewed every 5 years.
21. In partnership with the Dundee Federation of Allotment Garden Association, to source future external funding for the improvements of allotments and where required improved provision. The search should be extended as widely as possible and should include encouraging allotment sites to undertake fundraising.
22. As part of the Allotments Action Plan prepare a plan for the promotion of allotments and the development of a programme.

## REFERENCES

COSLA Allotments in Scotland : Guidance notes for Scottish Councils, published September 2007

Local Government Committee Inquiry into Allotments : published 2003

Cultivating Communities - Edinburgh City Council's Allotment Strategy : approved by Edinburgh City Council in November 2002

Best Value Review of Nutrition in Tayside : 2006-2007, published June 2007

Biodiversity in Community Gardens and Allotments : a guide by the Tayside Biodiversity, published 2008

Dundee's Public Open Space Strategy : 2008-2011, approved by Dundee City Council, August 2008

Scottish Government Planning Policy SPP11 : Open Space and Physical Activity, published November 2007

Planning Advice Note : Pan 65 Planning and Open Space, published June 2008

## CONSULTATION

To develop this Document it is suggested that consultation will take place with:

Allotment Associations

Private Allotments

Council Allotment Plot Holders

Dundee Federation of Allotment Gardens

Scottish Allotment Garden Society

Loch Community Planning Partnership

Dundee Health Promotion Initiative

Dundee City Council Departments

BCTCV Green Gym, etc.

Dundee Partnership Environmental Theme Group

Chair of the Dundee Local Community Partners

- through the wider public network, internet, etc.

**ALLOTMENT SOCIETY WAITING LIST / VACANCIES**  
(Waiting List to be updated during the consultation process)

	<b>Association Managed Allotments</b>	<b>Total Number of Plots</b>	<b>Vacancies</b>	<b>Number on Waiting List</b>
1.	West Law	87	0	3
2.	Kinnaird	104	2	
3.	Stirling Park	49	--	0
4.	Murrayfield	40	1	1
5.	Old Craigie Road	79		10
6.	City Road	63	0	7
	<b>Private Allotment</b>			
7.	Clepington Working Mens	82	0	3
8.	Gardner Street	31	0	1
9.	Magdalen Green	13	0	5
	<b>Dundee City Council Managed Allotments</b>			
10.	Macaulay Street	10		]
11.	Ancrum Road	17		]
12.	Arklay Terrace	10		]
13.	Magdalen Green	14		] 52
	<b>Total</b>	<b>599</b>		<b>82</b>

See attached City Allotments Location Map

