

To: Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board

On: 3 November 2021

Report by: Head of Economy and Development

Heading: Renfrewshire Allotments Annual Report 2020

1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Board of the Council's Allotments Annual Report for 2020. The report has been prepared in accordance with the Council's statutory duties under Section 121 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:
- (i) Approves the Renfrewshire Annual Allotments Report 2020.
 - (ii) Notes that subject to Board approval, the report will be published on the Renfrewshire Council website in accordance with statutory requirements.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (Part 9) relates to allotments and encourages Councils to support the development of allotments and community growing spaces, recognising their contribution to health and well-being, sustainable local food production and community empowerment.
- 3.2. The Council has a statutory duty to provide allotments under the provisions of the Act and a number of associated duties, including the requirement for the publication of an annual allotments report. The report for 2019 was approved by the Board on 22 January 2020.

4. Renfrewshire Annual Allotment Report 2020

- 4.1. The report provides a summary of allotment provision in Renfrewshire over 2020, in accordance with the specific measures set out in Section 121 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.
- 4.2. The Act requires the Council to establish and maintain a list of all persons who request an allotment. Renfrewshire Council has six Allotment/Growing Ground Associations who lease and occupy Council land as set out in the table below. The sites had a total of 338 individual growing plots and 107 people awaiting allocation of an allotment or growing plot at 18 November 2020.

Table 1 Renfrewshire allotment sites and associations

Allotment Site	Association
Brediland Allotments, Paisley	Brediland Allotments Association
Grow in Glenburn, Glenfield Road, Paisley	Grow in Glenburn
West End Allotments, Paisley	Paisley West End Allotments Association
Sanctuary Gardens, Paisley	West End Growing Grounds Association
Broadloan Gardens, Renfrew	Renfrew Association of Growers & Gardeners
Erskine Community Allotments	Erskine Community Allotments Association

- 4.3 The number of those awaiting allotments has risen by 52 since 2019 but the total remains below the statutory 50% ratio between waiting lists and plot numbers across Renfrewshire which would require the Council to consider additional allotment provision under Section 112 of the Act. However, despite this the Council intend to engage with local communities in the preparation of its new Local Development Plan in 2022 to assess possible sites to meet this demand across various communities in Renfrewshire.
- 4.4 Strong progress has been made in addressing the Council's additional statutory duties under the Act over 2020. This includes the publication of a Renfrewshire Food Growing Strategy 2020-25, approved by the Housing, Communities and Planning Board on 20 January 2020 and the publication of Renfrewshire Allotments Regulations, approved by the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Board on 26 August 2020.
- 4.5 The Annual Allotments Report also considers the impact of the Covid pandemic over the last year, recognising the positive mental and physical health benefits for plot holders and some of the challenges faced by allotment and community garden associations in relation to communal management, educational and fund-raising activities.
- 4.6 The Council will continue to support local allotment and growing ground associations in the delivery of growing opportunities through the Renfrewshire Growing Grounds Forum and annual updates will be reported to the Board as appropriate, in accordance with statutory requirements.
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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – None.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.
3. **Community Planning – Creating a sustainable Renfrewshire for all to enjoy** – The Annual Allotments Report 2019/20 sets out how the Council is progressing statutory duties in relation to allotments, supporting opportunities for local food growing, developing our outdoor spaces and contributing to healthier lifestyles.
4. **Legal** – None.
5. **Property/Assets** – None.
6. **Information Technology** – None.
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety** – None.
9. **Procurement** – None.
10. **Risk** – None.
11. **Privacy Impact** – None.
12. **Cosla Policy Position** – None.
13. **Climate Risk** - Community food growing contributes positively to Renfrewshire Council's carbon neutrality targets, particularly through lower levels of CO₂ emissions as a result of reduced "food miles".

Appendices

1. Renfrewshire Annual Allotments Report 2019/20.

List of Background Papers

- (a) Housing, Community and Planning Board 20 January 2020 - Renfrewshire Food Growing Strategy 2020-25 .
- (b) Infrastructure, Land and Environment Board 22 January 2020 – Allotments Annual Report 2019.

(c) Infrastructure, Land and Environment Board 26 April 2020 - Renfrewshire Allotment Regulations.

Author: *Stuart McMillan, Regeneration and Place Manager*
stuart.mcmillan@renfrewshire.gov.uk Tel: 07958 009520