

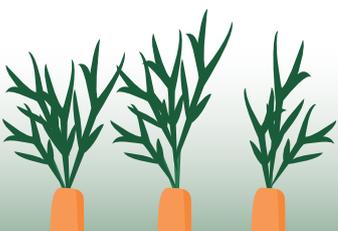
Hounslow's ALLOTMENTS STRATEGY

2020 – 2025



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FOREWORD

Hounslow has 29 managed allotment sites, most at full capacity with around 2000 plots and considerable waiting lists and yet interest about allotments amongst our residents is growing.

Allotments are important recreational facilities and they contribute directly to the cultural development of the Borough. The recently adopted Corporate Plan recognises the value that cultural activities bring to the community through improving the quality of life for local people and how culture can assist Hounslow Council in delivering our objectives and achieve desired outcomes.

The Council have approved the Greener Borough Framework 2020-30 which seeks to provide a high-level framework to deliver on the Council's ambition and aspirations for the borough through enhancing our environment and improving sustainability. It's focus is on enhancing biodiversity, physical and mental well-being and promoting the positive effect the environment has on individuals' sense of well-being, whilst building greater civic pride.

During 2019 the London Borough of Hounslow implemented an essential review of its Allotment Sites, exploring customer demand, allotment usage opportunities and taking on board views of our current customers on the safety, security and management of our allotments. The information from this review will assist us in our goal of creating a high quality, responsive allotment service for the 21st century for the benefit of all our communities.

Pressure on the land resource in Hounslow and across London for housing and other development is well known. Allotments are another essential green infrastructure and London Borough of Hounslow has shaped a strong vision in continuing to value allotments and improve its service and offer for generations to come. This plan highlights the key challenges and opportunities that we will need to overcome and exploit, shaping an improved and modernised service to be developed in next five years. I look forward to working with all our partners and communities that share our vision for Hounslow's allotments.



Councillor Samia Chaudhary
Cabinet Member for Leisure

1. INTRODUCTION

Cultivating an allotment plot is not just a great recreational pursuit but an active, socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable lifestyle.

Allotments promote a variety of benefits including:

- Enhancing peoples physical and mental well-being
- Protecting and enhancing local biodiversity
- Improving local neighbourhood and social cohesion
- Providing opportunities for lifelong learning
- Contributing to social and economic regeneration.

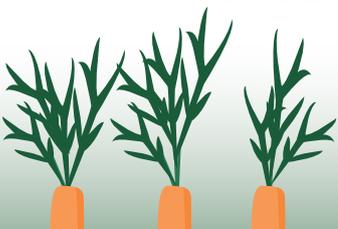
The provision of allotments, by local authorities is a statutory duty. The principal legislation is listed in Appendix 1. The London Borough of Hounslow will continue to promote and enhance allotments by facilitating partnerships with public, private and voluntary sectors to make a valuable contribution to the borough's sustainability and community offering. Developers can explore ways to incorporate allotments into their plans so they can be part of the wider regeneration offers, creating access to gardening spaces that can be accessible for people in flats.

2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The development of Allotments are a vital component of the Council's Corporate Plan as green infrastructure, by contributing to the commitments of "Residents are healthy, active and socially connected" and "People live in pleasant neighbourhoods".

Allotments also play an important role in the approach highlighted in the Council's Joint Health and Wellbeing strategy with start, live and age well and preventing ill-health, which in turn has an impact on reducing costs within the wider economy, the council and the NHS. Other relevant local, regional and national strategies are as follows:

- The Greener Borough Framework and Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020-30 which seeks to provide a high-level framework to deliver on the council's ambition on sustainability tackling climate change
- The Borough's Local Plan 2015-2030 including objectives and a range of planning policies relevant to allotments.





- The regional strategic plans including the All London green grid, recognising allotments as London's important productive landscapes, and Natural Capital, Investing in Green Infrastructure for a Future London (GLA)
- Policies aligned with the National Allotment Society and participating to the London Mayor's national park city campaign.
- Best practice guidance included according to the publication from the Local Government Association (LGA) "Growing in the community- 2nd edition"
- The DEFRA 25 year plan to improve the environment, improving the environment and working with communities and businesses to do this.

3. ALLOTMENTS IN THE UK

The Association of Public Services Excellence (APSE) state of the market 2018 reflected Hounslow's position in relation to the popularity of allotments and current challenges. With a survey of over 140 Local authorities, demand for allotments seems to increase everywhere, with waiting lists high and a average waiting time of 18 months.

Allotments are heavily subsidised in the majority of the cases and in light of financial pressures, many allotment sites are now moving to self management models, often with the continuing support of the local authority. In this way allotment holders can not only ensure what finance is available is used to meet the known needs of the site, but they are also able to apply for funding which is not available to local authorities. Fees and charges vary, with most Authorities charging over £70 per year per plot. The current charges in Hounslow are £71 per plot.

Many Authorities are now building the importance of allotments into their Health and Well-Being Strategies and also their Local Development Plans. This latter point is evident within the APSE survey where many have reported they are using new developments to provide additional allotment sites.

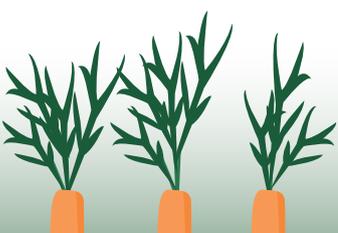
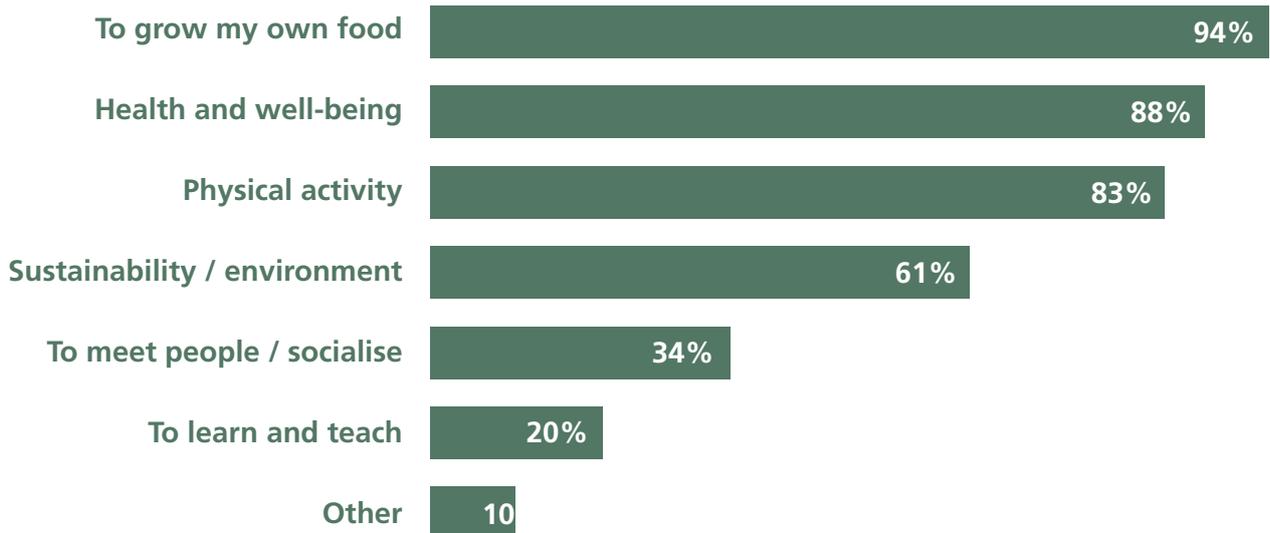
With regards to the environment and the pressure of climate change and sustainability, 100.0% of respondents stated that environmental sustainability is important in site management particularly by adopting water-saving measures such as water butts (97%), 53% stated that they cultivate plots organically and almost 20% of allotment sites have begun to use solar power instead of mains power.

In general, Local Authorities recognise the multiple benefits allotments can bring, allotments are acknowledged as being a key community asset and one which local residents, allotment holders and agencies across the country are increasingly helping to sustain.

4. ALLOTMENTS IN HOUNSLOW

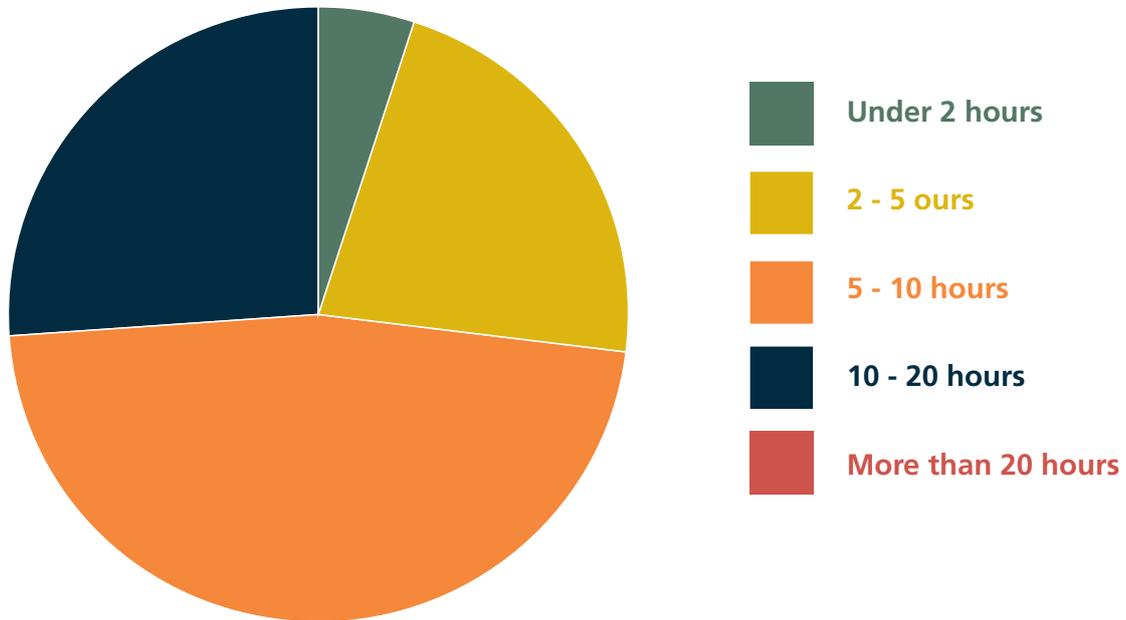


Our residents said: Reasons to have an allotment:





Time spent on allotment per week



Age profile

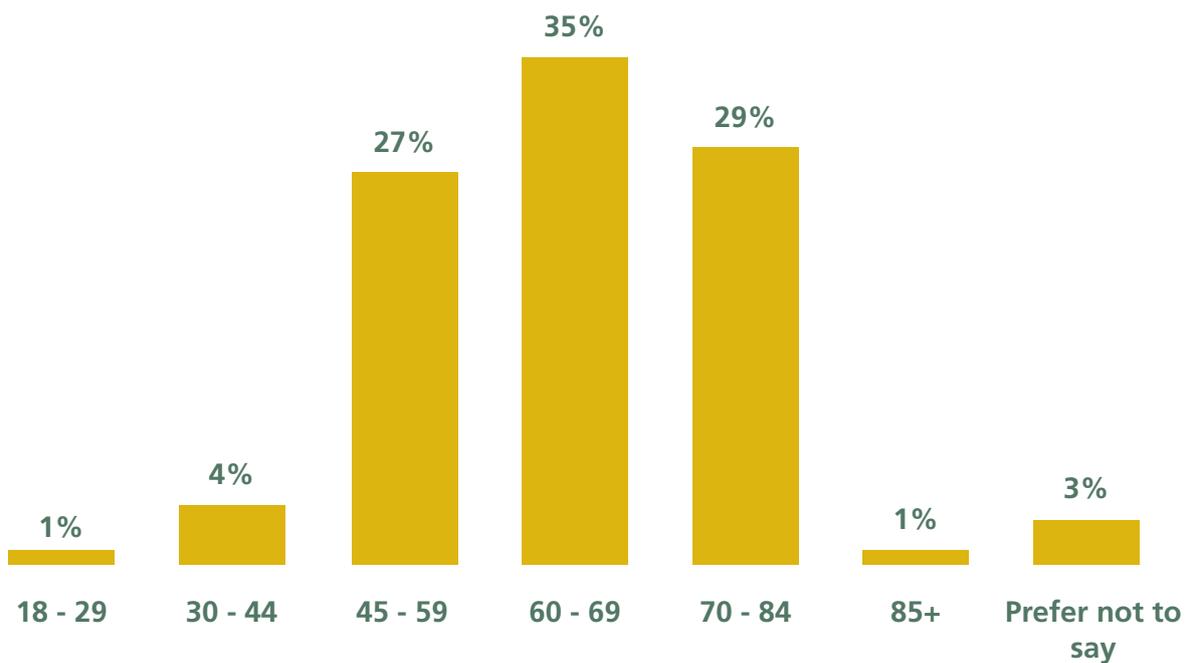




Table 1 shows the total provision of actively managed allotments and community gardens in each Area. The general provision in Hounslow seems to be adequate for the total number of households. However, the local provision in Hounslow at area level shows overprovision in some areas and under provision in others. Feltham West, Heston West, Hounslow Heath and Hounslow West currently have no allotment provision. Syon and Turnham green are low. Bedfont, Hanworth, Heston central, Hounslow South and Chiswick Homefields have the highest provision per 1,000 households.

Area	Allotment area in ha	No. of Households (2019) GIS	Provision / ha per 1,000 households	Total Plots	Plots per 1000 households
Bedfont	5.85	5,173	1.13	190	37
Brentford	2.94	8,056	0.36	70	9
Chiswick Homefields	8.23	5,224	1.58	473	91
Chiswick Riverside	3.29	5,342	0.62	143	27
Cranford	2.53	4,427	0.57	25	6
Feltham North	2.94	4,465	0.66	75	17
Feltham West	0.00	5,898	0.00	0	0
Hanworth	5.16	4,900	1.05	171	35
Hanworth Park	3.73	4,959	0.75	104	21
Heston Central	3.93	4,278	0.92	130	30
Heston East	1.59	4,350	0.36	34	8
Heston West	0.00	4,304	0.00	0	0
Hounslow Central	4.39	7,014	0.63	180	26
Hounslow Heath	0.00	5,333	0.00	0	0
Hounslow South	3.91	4,147	0.94	152	37
Hounslow West	0.00	5,103	0.00	0	0
Isleworth	4.21	5,420	0.78	150	28
Osterley and Spring Grove	0.36	5,237	0.07	12	2
Syon	0.56	6,968	0.08	9	1
Turnham Green	0.20	5,870	0.03	4	1
Totals	53.81	106,468	10.53	1922	18

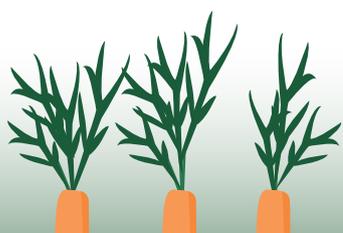
Table 2 provides a breakdown on vacancy and waiting lists within the borough. In a number of instances waiting lists are showing at sites recording vacant plots. This can be due to a time lag between individual plots becoming available and occupied by those on waiting lists.

As of January 2020, there were 681 people on a waiting list for an allotment within the borough while 169 vacant plots have been recorded.

The vacant plots figure is constantly changing as there needs to be sometime between the plot becoming vacant and its reallocation. Some of the plots might need considerable work before being returned to cultivation with a recognition this process need to be speedier.

These figures suggest that in general there is limited capacity at existing allotment sites as current waiting list vastly exceeds the vacant plots.

Site	Plots	Tenanted	Vacant	Waiting list
Barnes Farm	34	29	5	16
Burial Ground	75	74	1	25
Chertsey Road	137	137	0	45
Church Road	165	149	16	9
Church Walk	9	9	0	19
Cole Park	150	140	10	53
Dukes Meadows	203	203	0	68
Faggs Road South	27	24	3	8
Faggs Road North*	30	0	0	0
Fernside Avenue	34	15	19	19
Gainsborough Gdns	47	42	5	16
Hatton Road	190	175	15	57
Hounslow Avenue	86	82	4	30
Inwood Road	29	24	5	14
Manor Gardens	4	4	0	3
Pear Tree	34	34	0	11
Saxon Avenue	6	6	0	6





Site	Plots	Tenanted	Vacant	Waiting list
Snakey Lane	70	63	7	22
Stanley Road	117	71	46	37
Staveley Road	34	34	0	23
Sutton Lane	68	68	0	25
Syon Park Gardens	12	12	0	22
Thames Road	34	34	0	23
The Promenade	133	128	5	41
Viola Avenue	18	16	2	11
Waye Avenue	25	25	0	9
Wellmeadow Road	70	60	10	19
Westbrook Road	62	56	6	24
Worton Road	19	9	10	19
Totals	1922	1723	169	681

*Faggs road north has capacity for 30 plots but at present these plots are not ready for cultivation and not available. A substantial capital investment and use of heavy machinery is needed to bring these plots up to standard.

In Hounslow there are also active community gardens, one is the Salopian garden managed by Cultivate London in Isleworth and a proposed community garden at Sutton Playing fields currently proposed by Heston Action Group.

6. DEMAND

Influences on potential demand include demographic characteristics, accessibility and availability of allotment quality and standard allotment management, public awareness and extent of allotment promotion and potential changes in demand resulting from diversification in allotment usage to foster cultivation.

The extent of unfulfilled demand needs to be considered in conjunction with the size and distribution of sites. Although there are pockets of residential areas with poor access to allotment sites, the possibility of creating new sites using LBH land is challenging, with prohibitive capital and maintenance costs. Improved accessibility to current sites and stronger partnerships with developers is a more realistic strategy in order to improve capacity.

The creation of community gardens managed by the community or third sector might also be one of the options to engage residents in gardening and growing fruit and vegetables.

Focus groups were organised during 2019 to assess latent demand and the assessment discovered that overall there is a demand for allotments in non users and in particular:



Awareness: Most focus group participants knew where their local allotment site was, although not all. Everyone we asked was positively surprised by the number of allotments in Hounslow. Many agreed that allotments advertising could improve.



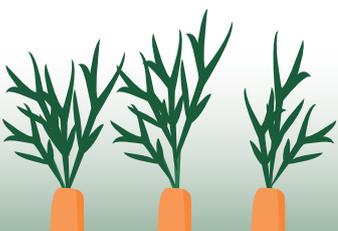
Allotment use: Many spoke about green spaces giving children the chance to be outdoors, but most participants thought allotments were for people of any age. People who recently started gardening can be potentially interested in allotments.



Benefits of allotments: Value was well recognised. The main things that participants spoke of as potential benefits of tending an allotment were growing fresh fruit, vegetables and flowers of your own choice, socialising and being outdoors and wellbeing and exercise.



Barriers with allotments: The main barriers mentioned by participants were time, waiting lists, plot size or lack of confidence. Some other suggestions included the distance from home, allotment rules, weather and cultural barriers.





7. ENGAGEMENT

An extensive engagement process was carried out during 2019 which included the following:

- Online and face-to-face surveys with allotment holders in the borough, to understand more about their needs and priorities.
- A focus group and three 'chat about' with non-users of allotments to understand their perceptions and any potential barriers to use (see section 5.2)
- A seminar with over 100 participants to discuss strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for the allotment service.

The survey with users resulted with **195 respondents** found that:

- **62% were satisfied with the service** and
- **71% were satisfied with their site overall.**

The most important features for the allotment services was considered access, security and water supply.

The main motivations for holders were:

- **to grow their own food (94%),**
- **health and wellbeing (88%),**
- **physical activity (83%)** and
- **sustainability and/or the environment (61%).**

94% of respondents said they **intend to keep renting their plot for the foreseeable future.**

Respondents were most satisfied with:

- **the access to their site (89%)** and
- **the water supply (65%).**

Area for improvements were toilet facilities, waste management and security.

This indicates that although the service is well regarded, there is a need for modernisation, particularly by improving current infrastructure to make allotments safer and more useable.

The seminar explored a number of themes which included management, health and well being and sustainability.

With regards to management, discussions were mainly on how to decrease waiting lists and how to improve infrastructure for better security and toilet provision. This was in line with the findings from the online survey. There was a recognition that staff resource was not sufficient to improve the quality of the service and that an increase of fees and charges could be used to increase staff capacity.

There were numerous suggestions made by residents on how allotments in the borough could be more environmentally friendly. Two of the main discussion points were water use and waste recycling management.

A key area of discussion was about how allotments can benefit other residents and help more widely with health and wellbeing in the borough. Many of the suggestions focussed on using allotments to boost social cohesion and overcoming social isolation by bringing people together. Users suggested partnerships with the NHS and GP surgeries in the borough, encouraging them to promote allotments and prescribe allotments as an alternative to medication for those with physical or mental illnesses.

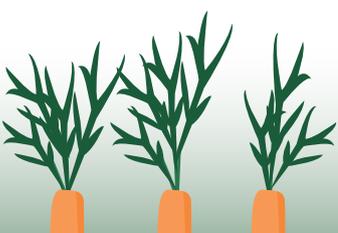
There was also a suggestion to create “gardening champions”, using expertise within allotment users to engage with the wider community and encourage them to participate to cultivate “community plots” that can be created in some allotments or community gardens.

Suggestions for reducing water consumption included the use of water tubs or tanks and improved rainwater catchment. For waste management, there were a number of issues and suggestions raised including stronger regulation.

8. VISION FOR ALLOTMENTS

This vision for the future of Hounslow’s allotments has been developed as a result of the engagement with stakeholders, the public and our partners.

The overall vision for allotments is Hounslow is to “maximise their value for health and wellbeing, stronger communities, biodiversity and sustainable living”





9. ACTION PLAN 2020 – 2025

A set of deliverables stemmed from the engagement with users and the analysis of provision in line with national, regional and local strategies and it is summarised below. Discussions generated commitments from the Council and allotment holders that will help moving forward this strategy.

We will:

- Improve infrastructure to enhance customer experience
- Strengthen partnerships to maximise use and health and well being opportunities
- Improve management practices to increase our service standards
- Identify interventions to improve sustainability

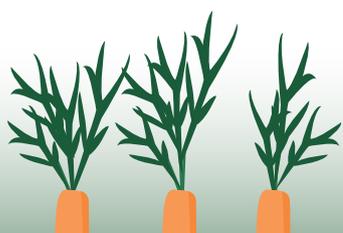
In return we ask you to:

- Keep the sites clean and well looked after
- Participate positively and engage to increase the community value of sites
- Respect the communal nature of allotments
- Help us to introduce sustainable practices to minimise waste and increase biodiversity

The detailed action plan includes actions that will need to be implemented in the short term (S) during 2020-21, medium term (M) during 2020-2023 and long term (L) during 2021-2025 or ongoing.

Theme 1 – Improving Infrastructure provision

Ref	Objectives	Deliverables	Timescales	Owner	Budgets
1A	Prepare an infrastructure development plan	Improvement programme to be phased over three years and reviewed every year	M	LBH/GS360/ Allotment holders	CIL/responsive maintenance/ reserves
1B	Introduce water butts as a mean to store rainwater	Sites identified for the suitable introduction of water butts	S	LBH/GS360	CIL/capital grants
1C	Review of toilet provision with the introduction of composting toilets	Sites identified for the suitable introduction of composting toilets	S	LBH/GS350	CIL/capital grants
1D	Review policy on huts provision and enforcement for non compliance	Safer use of huts and sheds	S	GS360/ enforcement/ allotment holders	Existing revenue budgets and rent fees
1E	Identify access and security issues and implement interventions to improve security	Replacement and or repair of fencing and gates	M	GS360/ allotment holders/ enforcement	CIL/capital
1F	Improve signage	Replacement and introduction of information boards through a 3 year programme	M	LBH/GS360	CIL/capital



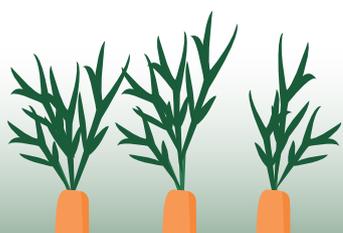


Theme 2 – Strengthen partnerships

Ref	Objectives	Deliverables	Timescales	Owner	Possible funding
2A	Work with community groups, third sectors and developers to increase allotment capacity ideally in area of demand	Establishment of a new community garden and a minimum of 2 additional allotment sites in partnership with developers, particularly in the west of the borough	L	LBH, community groups, third sector, developers	External grants
2B	Establish a referral programme with GPs	GP prescription and activities	M	LBH parks team/Public health	Public health budget
2C	Work with schools to increase participation in children	Prioritise lettings for schools where applicable. Organise a number of events and initiatives with at least 3 schools per year to promote allotments in schools	M	GS360/ education team/events team/schools	School budgets/ grants
2D	Work with third sector charities to develop programme with hard to reach groups	Develop an engagement programme for people with learning disability, dementia or other vulnerable groups	M	LBH Parks team and Public Health. Age UK/Let's go Outside and learn/ Speak out	Thriving community programme/ grants
2E	Work with allotment holders and third sector to create "gardening champions"	Gardening champions in each allotment	S	LBH/ allotment holders/third sector	Existing resources

Theme 3 – Ensuring best management practices

Ref	Objectives	Deliverables	Timescales	Lead Partner	Budgets
3A	Link allotment database with interactive maps	Expand use of existing software Colony to digitise maps and allow online access	M	LBH/GS360	Revenue budgets/ reserves
3B	Introduce site representatives for all sites.	All sites can be represented in discussions and development of the service	S-M	Allotment holders/GS360	Existing resources
3C	Establish an Allotments Forum.	Identify representative and organise forum meetings	S	GS360	Existing resources
3D	Review management of non-cultivation in order to free up new plots	Increase frequency of inspections; Change terms and conditions to strengthen rules for termination.	M	GS360	Existing resources
3E	Review management of waiting lists	Implementation of a number of measures including split plots, introduction of shared plots and a point system that can improve access to people with no access to gardens	M	GS360	Existing resources
3F	Review of fees and charges	Looking at increasing charges to improve allotment management Benchmarking to retain a price structure that can be considered value for money and maintain accessibility.	S	LBH/GS360	Existing resources
3G	Review and update allotment rules	Introduce new rules to address behaviour and waste management.	M	GS360	Existing resources
3H	Encourage self-management across the network	Work with community group to explore devolution for some sites	L	LBH/GS360	Existing resources





Ref	Objectives	Deliverables	Timescales	Lead Partner	Budgets
3I	Enable and support training and cross learning initiatives between sites/users/ community groups	Work with Parks for London, APSE and the National allotment society to seek best practices and disseminate	L	LBH/allotment holders/ community groups/ champions and representatives	Revenue budgets/ grants
3L	Review tree management in key sites to improve access and usage	Improved crown and shrub management to increase capacity where necessary and possibly replacing tree planting elsewhere	M	GS360	Existing resources

Theme 4 – Environmental Sustainability

Ref	Objectives	Deliverables	Timescales	Lead Partner	Budgets
4A	Continue to protect existing allotment supply through effective Planning Policy	Clear planning policy on allotments	L	LBH planning	Existing resources
4B	Review waste/recycling management systems	Regulate waste with specific rules i.e. materials brought onto the site that are not used or waste produced on the site, including green waste, is the plot holder’s responsibility to dispose of. Storage of waste should be prohibited.	M	GS36-/LBH recycling	Revenue budgets
4C	Make peat free products compulsory and regulate composting.	Environmentally friendly practices agreed and encouraged amongst users	M	GS360	Existing resources

Ref	Objectives	Deliverables	Timescales	Lead Partner	Budgets
4D	Encourage organic practices	Environmentally friendly practices encouraged amongst users	M	GS360	Existing resources
4E	Identify biodiversity interventions in line with biodiversity action plan	Biodiversity programme as per the Biodiversity action plan including the creation of natural habitats with the aim of preserving and enhance biodiversity	S-M	GS360/ LBH parks team and environmental strategy	CIL/grants
4F	Identify sites for the implementation of cleaner greener campaigns	Identify sites for creation of meadows. Links allotments to food and flower markets.	S-M	LBH cleaner greener/ allotment holders/ community groups	Campaigns budgets/ grants

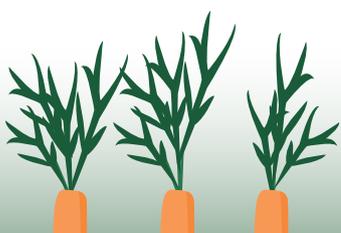
10. PERFORMANCE AND REVIEW

One of the Key actions is to establish an Allotment Forum that together with the Greener community reference group and the Cleaner, Greener Hounslow leadership Board will monitor and evolve the implementation of the vision and objectives of this Allotments Strategy.

Monitoring and evaluation will be an ongoing process with regular reviews and workstreams that will help the strategy implementation.

Hounslow's success in delivering the Strategy Objectives will be measured against local and national standards including:

- Customer satisfaction with the allotment sites and service;
- Occupation levels
- Average waiting time for plots and waiting lists
- Delivery of the workstreams as per timescales.





APPENDIX 1 – LEGISLATION AND POLICY

NATIONAL CONTEXT

The Allotment Acts

The legal framework for Allotments has developed in a piecemeal fashion and is encapsulated within a number of Acts identified below.

Act and Date	Relevance
Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908	Consolidated all previous legislation and laid down the basis for subsequent Acts.
	Placed a duty on local authorities to provide sufficient allotments according to demand. Makes provision for local authorities to compulsory purchase land to provide allotments.
Allotments Act 1922	Limited the size of an individual allotment to one quarter of an acre and specified that they should mostly be used for growing fruit and vegetables.
Allotments Act 1925	Required local authorities to recognise the need for allotments in any town planning development. Established statutory allotments which a local authority could not sell or convert to other purposes without Ministerial consent.
Allotments Act 1950	Made improved provisions for compensatory and tenants' rights. Confined local authorities' obligation to 'allotment gardens' only.

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states:

“Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area”.

(NPPF, Paragraph 73)

“Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.” (NPPF, Paragraph 74).

Planning Practice Guidance

Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) states:

“Open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space”. Guidance also states that “it is for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas”

PPG recognises allotments as “Green Infrastructure”.

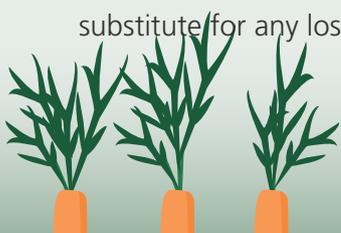
Previous Government Guidance

Previous guidance, outlined in PPG17 (2002) identified the role of informal open space, including allotments as performing:

- The strategic function of defining and separating urban areas;
- Contributing towards urban quality and assisting urban regeneration;
- Promoting health and well-being;
- Acting as havens and habitats for flora and fauna;
- Being a community resource for social interaction; and
- A visual function.

PPG17 also identified the issues which Local Planning Authorities should take into account in considering allotment provision and circumstances when disposal may be appropriate. Notably paragraph 13 states:

“Equally, development may provide the opportunity to exchange the use of one site for another to substitute for any loss of open space, or sports or recreational facility. The new land and facility should





be at least as accessible to current and potential new users, and at least equivalent in terms of size, usefulness, attractiveness and quality. Wherever possible, the aim should be to achieve qualitative improvements to open spaces, sports and recreational facilities. Local authorities should use planning obligations or conditions to secure the exchange of land, ensure any necessary works are undertaken and that the new facilities are capable of being maintained adequately through management and maintenance agreements”.

National Allotment Survey (1996)

There is no nationally recognised quantitative standard for allotment provision, however, the National Allotment Survey (1996) identified an average of 15 plots per 1,000 households.

REGIONAL CONTEXT

The London Plan

London Plan Policy 7.18 Protecting Open Space and Addressing Deficiency states:

“A - The Mayor supports the creation of new open space in London to ensure satisfactory levels of local provision to address areas of deficiency.

B - The loss of protected open spaces must be resisted unless equivalent or better quality provision is made within the local catchment area. Replacement of one type of open space with another is unacceptable unless an up to date needs assessment shows that this would be appropriate...

D - Boroughs should undertake audits of all forms of open space and assessments of need. These should be both qualitative and quantitative, and have regard to the cross-borough nature and use of many of these open spaces.” (London Plan MALP, March 2016).

The Mayor seeks to protect open space. The MALP (2016) states that “as part of London’s multifunctional green infrastructure, local open spaces are key to many issues, such as health and biodiversity. Needs assessments can be part of existing borough strategies on issues such as allotments, play, trees and playing pitches and the preparation of a green infrastructure strategy will need to bring together the outputs of these borough strategies” (London Plan MALP, March 2016).

London Plan Policy 7.22 Land for Food states:

“A - The Mayor seeks to encourage and support thriving farming and land-based sectors in London, particularly in the Green Belt.

B - Use of land for growing food will be encouraged nearer to urban communities via such mechanisms as ‘Capital Growth’.

C - Boroughs should protect existing allotments. They should identify other potential spaces that could be used for commercial food production or for community gardening, including for allotments and orchards....” (London Plan MALP, March 2016).

HOUNSLOW CONTEXT

Hounslow Local Plan 2015-2030

Hounslow Local Plan Policy GB8: Allotments, Agriculture and Local Food Growing: outlines that the Council’s current approach to allotments is to encourage their continued use. This is to be achieved by:

Policy GB8 - Allotments, agriculture and local food growing

Our approach:

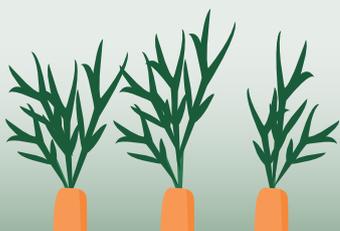
We will encourage the continued use of allotments and agricultural land, and promote new, innovative uses of green space for local food growing, including community farming, gardening and orchards, and commercial food production.

We will achieve this by

- a. Retaining the existing allotments and resisting their loss unless in accordance with the borough’s Allotment Strategy;
- b. Protecting agricultural land;
- c. Working with partners and local communities to identify sites with potential for local food growing and supporting projects that promote community gardening, farming and orchards; and
- d. Supporting initiatives for commercial food production.

We will expect development proposals to:

- e. Be consistent with and positively contribute to the open space and/or nature conservation designation of the land;
- f. Retain allotments and the best and most versatile agricultural land, unless it can be demonstrated that they are no longer required or viable for such purposes. In the event that such land is no longer required, the feasibility of appropriate alternative open space uses which allow the site to maintain its value for growing food such as community gardens or orchards, should be considered first; and
- g. Avoid adverse impacts on adjacent allotments or agricultural land.



Hounslow's
ALLOTMENTS
STRATEGY

2020 – 2025