



Community Food Growing Task and Finish Group

Scoping report

Date: 30 November 2022

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1 (open)

Wards affected: All (none specific)

Contributors: Assistant Chief Executive (Scrutiny Manager)

Outline and recommendations

This report outlines the role of the community food growing task and finish group, and summarises the scope of the work it will carry out.

Members of the task and finish group are asked to:

- consider and comment on the content of the report
- describe the intended outcomes of the task and finish group
- agree the group's key lines of enquiry
- agree a timetable for completion of this work.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

The subject of this task and finish group was proposed by councillors:

- Natasha Burgess
- Will Cooper
- Laura Cunningham
- Sian Eiles
- Coral Howard.

The subject and membership of the task and finish group were agreed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 21 September 2022.

The first meeting of the group is on 30 November 2022.

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report asks members of the task and finish group to consider the scope of the review and define its intended outcomes.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Members of the task and finish group are asked to:
 - consider and comment on the content of the report
 - define the intended outcomes of the task and finish group
 - agree the group's key lines of enquiry
 - agree a timetable for the completion of this work.

3. Context

Food justice and the cost of living

- 3.1. The Council and its partners are developing a food justice action plan¹. It draws attention to the issue that 'food injustice is one of the biggest problems facing Lewisham'. The ongoing cost of living crisis has combined with underlying problems of deprivation and inequality in access to services - resulting in a substantial and sustained increase in use of emergency provision, including food banks.
- 3.2. Food Justice is defined in the draft plan as: 'reliable and fair access to food that is sufficiently nutritious, sustainable, culturally appropriate and affordable'. The issues contributing to, and exacerbating, food injustice are examined in the draft plan. These take account of the problem of marginalisation for groups who are already experiencing injustice or inequality in access to services. Worryingly, this includes households with children, which are more likely to be experiencing food injustice.
- 3.3. Actions to promote food justice are proposed in the draft plan. Of particular relevance to this task and finish group are the actions outlined under 'focus area 1' of the plan: *Take preventative action to reduce the risk of Lewisham residents experiencing food injustice* - which incorporates and objective to promote and develop opportunities for community food growing.
- 3.4. Lewisham Local has been commissioned by the Council to co-ordinate the Good Food Lewisham programme, which includes action to ensure that individuals, community groups and local businesses are able to access information and share resources about food growing. They are also working with Grow Lewisham to further develop their network of community growers and green space networks. The task and finish group should engage with these groups to better understand the existing actions being proposed and to avoid duplication of effort.

¹ Draft Food Justice Action plan, Healthier Communities Select Committee 1 November 2022: [link to the draft report on the Council website](#)

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The budget challenge

- 3.5. Public services face significant and unrelenting budget challenges. Government reductions in funding over the decade of austerity are combining with increasing demand, a cost of living crisis and high levels of economic uncertainty from national and international factors.
- 3.6. In the upcoming report to Mayor and Cabinet on the budget reductions required to balance the 2022-23 budget it is noted that:
- ‘Over the previous twelve years (2010-22) a net £137m has been taken out of the Council’s annual spending, whilst the population has grown by over 27,000 (an increase of over 9%) leading to increased demand for services. In turn this has led to reduced service provision, leaner practices in terms of support, and more risk for the Council as it seeks to maintain good customer service and deliver quality services.’
 - Over this period the Council’s spending choices focused on protecting the front line services on which the most vulnerable in our communities are dependent. In 2010/11, 52% of the Council’s general fund service spend was spent on social care (adult and children). By 2020/21, that had increased to over 70% across adult and children social care services and public health services returned to local government in 2013.
 - The Medium Term Financial Strategy, agreed by Mayor and Cabinet in July 2022 identified an anticipated funding gap over the next three years of £36m with £9.961m for 2023/24, in addition to the £3.611m of budget reductions for 2023/24 already agreed in 2021 and 2022.
- 3.7. In this context – the Council has reduced its work force and embarked on a series of service changes and transformations. Across a range of services, work that the Council once supported is now no longer viable. And, it is in this context that fees and charges for paid for services are being reviewed. This includes the allotment service, which is due to refine its cost modelling as it seeks to move to full cost recovery².

Lewisham’s corporate strategy

- 3.8. A new corporate strategy has been developed³ – which explains the Council’s values, priorities and focus for the next four years (2022-2026):
- Cleaner and Greener
 - Strong Local Economy
 - Quality Housing
 - Children and Young People
 - Safer Communities
 - Open Lewisham
 - Health and Wellbeing
- 3.9. The work of the task and finish group relates most closely to the priority for a ‘cleaner and greener’ Lewisham, which proposes that ‘by 2026 we will have planted more street trees, tiny forests and community orchards across our borough’.

² See the 2022-23 [fees and charges report](#) for additional information.

³ [Corporate Strategy for 2022-2026](#)

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Lewisham's new local plan

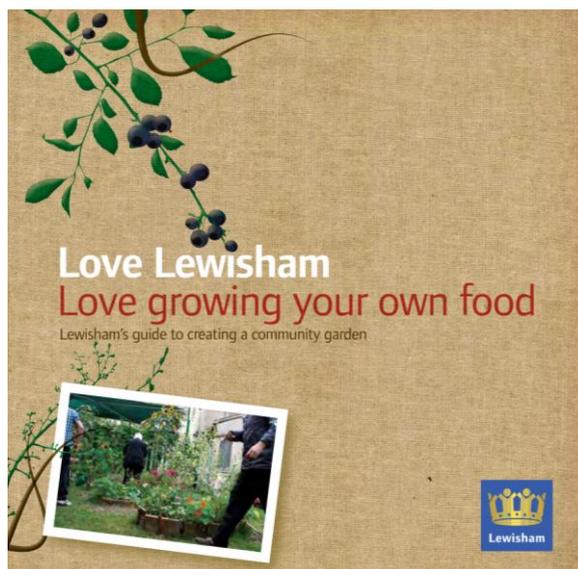
- 3.10. Lewisham is currently developing a new local plan⁴ – which will shape that fabric and the character the borough for many years to come. The plan has been through a number of rounds of drafting and consultation – and it is intended that the final plan be adopted in the coming year.
- 3.11. Policy GR6 of the plan (see page⁵ 349) emphasises the importance of community food growing:

‘Allotments and community gardens will be protected in order to support sustainable food growing locally and to enhance opportunities for leisure, social interaction and education.’

‘Major development proposals for housing and proposals for community facilities are encouraged to include provision of space for community gardening and food growing. Where such existing provision exists and a site is to be redeveloped, this should be retained or re-provided.’

Community gardening guidance

- 3.12. Lewisham has a guide to creating a community garden. It is now a decade old, but it emphasises the importance of community growing for strengthening community connections and helping the environment - as well as the benefits it provides in terms of exercise and nutrition.



- 3.13. The guide includes practical advice for: choosing a site, planning and managing a garden as well as assessing soil quality, fundraising and engaging volunteers.
- 3.14. Officers in the Council's Parks, Sport and Leisure Service may be able to provide advice for residents wishing to set up a community garden – and as members of the task and finish group will already be aware there are a varied number of new and old community gardening initiatives in the borough.

⁴ Information about the new local plan on the Council's website:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/planning/policy/planning/about-the-lewisham-local-plan>

⁵ [Draft regulation 19 local plan](#) (PDF opens automatically)

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Pressure to grow is everywhere

- 3.15. The Association for Public Excellence's 2022 survey⁶ of local authority allotment services reported that nearly nine out of ten councils across the county had noticed a significant increase in demand for allotments in the past year.
- 3.16. It is worth noting that – in order to meet demand, the number of plots had increased – but the size of those plots had decreased. This indicates that councils are likely subdividing existing plots in order to accommodate a greater number of people.
- 3.17. None of the councils surveyed gained any financial surplus from the delivery of their services, in fact almost seven out of ten councils were providing a subsidy for the service to operate – with the remaining authorities simply covering their costs.

4. Community gardens and allotment practice

- 4.1. Allotments and community gardens are often mentioned in the same sentence but they have different set-ups. Allotments are resourced by the Council – ten are directly managed and 27 are run by volunteer committees under a management agreement (there are other private allotment sites in the borough on land not owned by the Council⁷). Dedicated allotment land and tenancy agreements are governed by legislation – based on the individual use of a specified area for defined growing purposes.
- 4.2. Across the 37 Council owned sites there are just over 1000 individual allotment plots. These vary in size but a full plot is 250 square metres and a half plot is 125 square metres (this is the average plot size in Lewisham). Some sites might also have quarter plots. The annual cost for a plot is determined by its size but the average cost is £48 a year.
- 4.3. [Appendix 2](#) provides an overview of the allotment sites, plot numbers and waiting times in the borough. This information is some years old and is due to be updated. Officers report that the waiting list for allotment plots is now approaching 3500 households with the average wait time for a plot nearing seven years. The number of individual allotment plots is less than 1% of the number of households⁸ in the borough.
- 4.4. Community gardens are not (in the most part) run or funded by the Council - although Council officers provide advice and support where this is feasible. Community gardens across the borough have many different areas of focus, involve different people, have different set ups and are a range of different sizes and levels of cultivation. Initial investigations for this task and finish group have already led members to a mix of different groups – with entirely different ways of operating.
- 4.5. In anticipation of the increased interest in community gardens, Council officers have updated the tenancy agreement for allotment sites – the agreement means that community sites can occupy space on allotment land – under defined circumstances:

'Community plots are solely for growing produce and providing not-for-profit education and training opportunities about food-growing.

⁶ <https://www.apse.org.uk/index.cfm/apse/news/articles/2022/almost-87-of-local-authorities-are-reporting-an-increase-in-demand-for-allotments/>

⁷ An open spaces assessment as part of the evidence base for Lewisham's new local plan identified 50 allotment and community garden sites in the borough: [Lewisham Open Spaces Assessment 2022](#)

⁸ There are more than 122,400 households in Lewisham (ONS data) [link to population data on the Council's website](#)

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Community groups must have:

- *A nominated responsible person who signs the tenancy agreement.*
- *A constitution, a copy of which shall be submitted to the Council for approval before the tenancy commences, and following any subsequent amendments to the constitution.*

The group shall not use the plot, nor permit the plot or the site to be used by others and or any other party, for any events or activities, signage or other promotional materials that are of a political, religious or social activist nature.

The group will confine its activities to the community plot. Any activities on the wider site must have prior permission from the Council. All open-to-public events and activities must be approved by the council following a written application made at least 4 weeks in advance.'

- 4.6. In addition, officers have begun to identify community spaces on allotment sites that might be suitable for appropriately constituted groups. The task and finish group may wish to visit some of these sites as part of the evidence gathering for this review. Building on this work - it may also be possible to engage with: volunteer committees on Lewisham's volunteer managed sites; privately owned sites; managers of housing land (including Lewisham Homes and the borough's social housing providers). Members might also explore how groups are making use of so called 'waste land' and other underutilised pockets of green space.

The role of the task and finish group

- 4.7. The role of the community food growing task and finish group is to determine how community gardening and current allotments practice can be expanded and adapted to increase community participation and offer more opportunities for local interactions with schools, food banks, housing associations, the voluntary sector and social prescribing services.
- 4.8. The outline proposal for this task and finish group can be found at [appendix 1](#). The Key lines of enquiry are set out in the following section.



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5. Key lines of enquiry

- 5.1. Key line of enquiry 1: What can we learn from **good practice**? What existing examples are there of innovation in allotment management and community growing in Lewisham and beyond?
- 5.2. Key line of enquiry 2: What can we do to encourage **wide-ranging participation**? How can community gardening groups benefit the greatest number of people from different backgrounds?
- 5.3. Key line of enquiry 3: Where is there **land** and which **groups** might benefit? What could the Council and its partners do to increase the availability of spaces for community growing and how should the Council use its ability to call people together to connect groups with places and spaces?
- 5.4. Key line of enquiry 4: Is there any **funding** for this work? In the context of financial uncertainty – how might groups seek to ensure their sustainability and longevity for the benefit of local communities? What resources does the Council have that it could use for this work?



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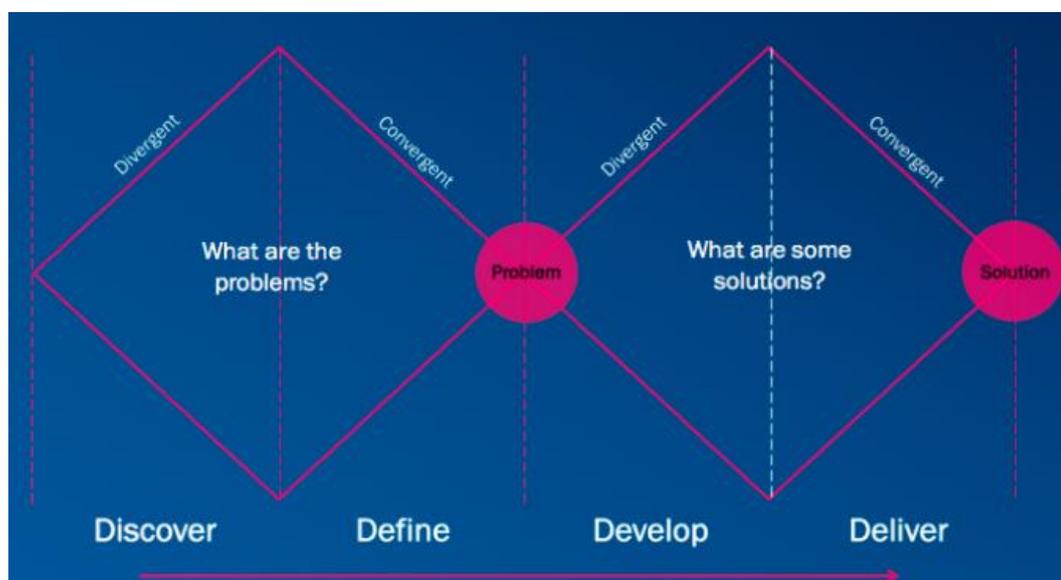
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6. How the task and finish group will be run

6.1. It is intended that this task and finish group be:

- Collaborative – scrutiny officers, directorate officers and councillors working together to address a topical issue of concern
- Time limited – to suggest solutions in a timely manner, with allocated tasks, progress checks and deadlines
- Flexible – with a mixture of formal and informal meetings, visits, research, user engagement etc.
- Focussed on residents – the issue will be clearly defined, and solutions suggested, on the basis of understanding residents' experience
- Focussed on solutions – the aim is to take evidence from a wide range of sources and good practice to develop affordable, practical solutions that are evidence based and implementable and that will have a positive impact on the lives of residents.

6.2. A 'double diamond' approach will be taken which will split the project into two parts (diamonds). The first part is the 'discovery' stage. The issue (the topic of the task and finish group) is the starting point and then research and evidence collection is carried out to really understand the issue and define it more clearly. Once the issue is well understood and well defined, the second stage begins. Further research and evidence collection is carried out, seeking inspiration from elsewhere and working with a range of different stakeholders and experts to investigate potential solutions. Then a clear set of recommendations can be produced.



7. Sources of evidence and engagement

- 7.1. The Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate is a key stakeholder in the Council's Executive and it is proposed that early discussions are held with Councillor Krupski about her vision and ambitions for green spaces in Lewisham. This is particularly relevant in the context of the forthcoming update of the Council's corporate strategy.
- 7.2. Officers in the Council's Parks, Sport and Leisure service will be able to provide an update on current allotment practice and recommend any areas of focus for the group.

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- 7.3. As outlined in previous sections, officers in have commissioned Lewisham Local to co-ordinate the Good Food Lewisham programme. The task and finish group should seek an early meeting with Grow Lewisham and the team working on the Good Food Lewisham Programme.
- 7.4. Lewisham's many community gardening and allotment groups will also be a primary source of evidence and engagement. Members of the task and finish group should seek to speak to as many of these groups as is feasible. The group might also consider issuing a call for evidence during the 'solutions' phase of the project.

8. Timeframe and resources

- 8.1. The first meeting of the task and finish group will take place on 30 November 2022 and further desktop research, evidence gathering and engagement will take place over the six months to May 2023. There will be further meetings of the group, either formal or informal, over the lifespan of the project and officers from the scrutiny team will work with council officers in the Council's Parks, Sport and Leisure service to provide information to Members. The project will conclude with a final formal meeting of the task and finish group to consider the recommendations the group will make to Mayor and Cabinet.

9. Intended outcomes

- 9.1. The work of the task and finish group is intended to support work to improve the following outcomes:
 - Improved access to opportunities for community gardening across the borough
 - Ensuring that access to opportunities is equitable
 - Increased awareness and sharing of best practice.
- 9.2. Issues outside of the scope of the task and finish group include – the issues and ideas already raised by the Food Justice Action plan. The task and finish group's work should seek to build on existing initiatives and ideas – including the Plan, the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and the Greening Fund.

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10. Financial implications

- 10.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Elements of the work of the task and finish group may have financial implications and these will need to be considered in due course.

11. Legal implications

- 11.1. The Council's Constitution provides at paragraph 6.11, Article 6 that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may from time to time appoint sub-committees, to be known as task and finish groups which will exist for a period of no less than 3 months, nor more than 12 months from the date of their creation. It further adds that 'Any task and finish group shall consist of 5 members and be established for the purpose of examining a particular issue in depth. The terms of reference of any task and finish group shall be agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which shall also appoint members to it.'

12. Equalities implications

- 12.1. The Equality Act 2010 (The Act) legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society. It replaced the previous anti-discrimination laws with a single act. It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 12.2. The Act also imposes a public sector equality duty. This means that in public bodies, of which this Council is designated, they must consider all individuals in carrying out their day-to-day work when shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees. It also requires public bodies to:
- Have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination
 - Advance equality of opportunity
 - Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities
- 12.3. Scrutiny tries to make sure that its work reflects the diversity of Lewisham's communities and that the views of residents are fairly represented in scrutiny processes. Any recommendations arising from scrutiny work support the Council's corporate strategy and reflect the needs of local residents.
- 12.4. There are no direct equality implications arising as a result of the implementation of the recommendation in this report but there are likely to be equality implications arising as part of the task and finish group's work and there will need to be considered in due course.

13. Climate change and environmental implications

- 13.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. However, in February 2019 Lewisham Council declared a Climate Emergency and proposed a target to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030. The declaration tasked the Sustainable Development Committee with scrutinising the Council's emerging plans. There will be climate change implications arising throughout the review and as part of any recommendations made by the group. These will need to be considered in due course.

14. Crime and disorder implications

- 14.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the implementation of

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the recommendations in this report. Matters considered by the task and finish group may have crime and disorder implications and the task and finish group will need to give due consideration to this.

15. Health and wellbeing implications

- 15.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Matters considered by the task and finish group may have health and wellbeing implications, particularly in relation to community participation, mental health and food security. These issues will be considered as part of the review.

16. Report author and contact

- 16.1. If you have any questions about this report please contact: Timothy Andrew (Scrutiny Manager) timothy.andrew@lewisham.gov.uk or 020 8314 7916

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Appendix 1 – Task and finish group proforma

<p>Proposed title</p> <p>This should be written as a question. What is the main question that you are looking to answer? Ideally use “how” I.e. “How can we improve……XXX?”</p>	<p>How can Community Gardening and current Allotments practice be expanded & adapted to increase community participation and offer more opportunities for local interactions with schools, food banks, housing associations, the voluntary sector & social prescribing services?</p>
<p>Overview</p> <p>Provide 2-3 sentences explaining the proposed investigation in more detail including the key areas that you are proposing to look at.</p>	<p>The TFG will consider current allotment and food growing practice in Lewisham and opportunities for expansion/adaptation to increase community participation, taking into account good practice and the role of other linked organisations and schemes, eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allotment associations, community growing & Mental Health projects, community gardens, housing associations, schools, available/ under-used land on the Asset Register, and projects in other urban areas/ parks/ London Boroughs and cities.
<p>Reason for proposal</p> <p>Why do you think that a task and finish group is the most appropriate way to address this issue / answer this question? Where has the suggestion come from? (I.e. through resident engagement, casework, external inspection, performance information.)</p>	<p>Lewisham is developing its Food Strategy and a Food Justice Network in the face of the Cost of Living Crisis, which includes acknowledging the wider structural causes of food poverty, ‘requiring the input of multiple stakeholders, decision & policy makers’. Considerable cross-cutting research and engagement of policies, resources and all stakeholders by a TFG will support this work, building on some informal investigations & interviewing of stakeholders & council assets in 21/22.</p> <p>Community growing groups - from external inspection/ site visits and recent dialogue - feel that the allotment allocation system could be more open to collective growing & community participation, to the benefit of all, and that better co-ordination between sectors & all stakeholders is possible both across Lewisham and in all local neighbourhoods.</p>
<p>Policy Context</p> <p>How does the proposal support delivery of the Lewisham Corporate Strategy; national/regional policies, initiatives; legislation etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manifesto/ draft Corporate Strategy: “Work in partnership with local food banks, food growing groups, schools & communities, through our joint Lewisham Food Action Plan. This will develop an effective ‘circular economy’ using local supply chains through our procurement & catering contracts.” - The Council’s Climate Emergency declaration & ongoing actions from this. - Parks & Open Spaces Strategy 2020-25 - Social Prescribing strategies - Lewisham Poverty Commission report 2017 - Steps towards the Circular economy - Council’s 2014 Community Gardening brochure

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<p>Criteria for the investigation</p> <p>(Essential)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the proposed investigation timely? Why? • Is it a strategic and significant issue? How? • Is it of concern to one or more sections of the population? Who? <p>(Desirable)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the issue of concern to partners or stakeholders? How? • Will the investigation add value in terms of improving the council's or partner's performance or service delivery? How? • Will the investigation be duplicating any other work? What? • What control or influence does the Council have in this area? 	<p>Current and previous work on the Cost of Living Crisis, Covid-19 and the Climate Emergency have highlighted the positive potential of local outdoor spaces for mental health, social cohesion and food growing right across the Borough. This TFG is therefore timely, but will only be considering the food-growing & associated networking aspects of the Borough's responses to both food poverty and Climate Emergency, helping to deliver local perspectives.</p> <p>The role of Lewisham financed greening projects and the potential for equitable access to all appropriate funding sources for all stakeholders are also significant lines of investigation.</p> <p>The oncoming and escalating Cost of Living Crisis and Climate Emergency affects those in poverty the worst, but the wider mental health benefits of community growing & green social prescribing are available to all.</p> <p>Community growing is a vehicle for social cohesion and practical expressions of cultural diversity and can therefore help to drive inclusion and tackle inequalities.</p> <p>The TFG's findings will feed into the strategic 'wider determinants' questions of the Council's Food Justice Network, and will provide recommendations, eg improvements to the Council's Allotments Policy, to fit with the current times.</p>
<p>Sources of evidence</p> <p>Do you have any thoughts/ideas on where you might gather evidence from? e.g. research or site visits. (Officers will be able to recommend suggestions and help with this.)</p>	<p>Community Growing & Gardening Groups, Lewisham Self-Managed Allotment Association, Lewisham Local, Housing Associations, Lewisham schools, the Council's Asset Register, community sector groups working in this sector (eg AFRIL – Action for Refugees in Lewisham), Southwark, Acton, Hackney, Preston. LBL Allotments Policy & practice.</p>
<p>Co-optees / Technical advisors?</p> <p>Would the task and finish group benefit from having expert input such as an academic or local expert?</p>	<p>Julia Edmondson & Duncan Cameron from University of Sheffield Institute of Sustainable Food Technology published a ground-breaking study in 2020 of the potential impact of maximising available urban spaces for food growing for 'Smart Food Cities'... https://news.mongabay.com/2020/03/study-finds-huge-potential-for-urban-gardens-to-feed-city-dwellers/</p>
<p>Suggested timeframe</p> <p>Do you estimate / suggest that the investigation take 3, 6, 9 or 12 months? Outline your</p>	<p>6 months</p>

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<p>suggested timetable for evidence gathering.</p>	
<p>Equalities Impact Identify any equalities issues that might be applicable.</p>	<p>Cultural Diversity needs to be seen in both collective and other forms of growing, including expanding the incidence of culturally specific crops. How much does the individualised approach of current allotment applications facilitate any of this?</p> <p>Collective growing spaces need to be inclusive and to have strong equality/diversity/social policies.</p> <p>The TFG will work with groups already leading on examining inclusion and access to allotments, community gardens, food hubs and community kitchens to ensure access for all.</p>
<p>Councillor(s) submitting the proposal Please list the names of the submitting councillor(s)</p>	<p>Cllr Laura Cunningham, Cllr Coral Howard, Cllr Sian Eiles, Cllr Will Cooper, Cllr Natasha Burgess</p>

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Appendix 2 – allotments information 2018

Name of Site	Approximate waiting time * (Aug 2018)	No. of plots on site	No. waiting Aug 2018
Ballamore Road	7	5	36
Barmeston Road	3	26	45
Blackhorse Road	7	26	88
Blythe Hill	9	18	207
Broadmead	5	26	22
Castillon Road	9	92	88
Chinbrook Meadows	10	68	88
Clarendon Rise	10	7	137
Dacre Park	10	45	232
Deloraine Street	9	27	214
Edward Street	8	4	128
Exford Road	3	51	60
Firhill Road North	3	29	52
Firhill Road South	4	21	44
Hazelbank Road	8	65	144
Hurstbourne Road	10	22	90
Jim Hurren	2	10	2
Kendale Road	5	48	29
Knapmill Way	5	27	33
Lee and District Land Club	9	56	62
Leslie Silk	4	9	10
Longton Nursery	4	58	27
Meadow Close	4	28	32
Oldstead Road	4	14	19
Priestfield Road	7	32	85
Romborough Gardens	10	21	72
Royal Naval Place Stage I	8	20	162
Royal Naval Place Stage II	8	12	121
St Mildreds Road	9	17	80
Sedgehill Road	5	19	27
Slaithwaite Road	13	11	106
Stanley Street	7	7	118
Sydenham Park	8	30	167
Taylors Lane	5	42	58
Trewsbury Road	4	58	96

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Weavers Estate	3	35	74
Windlass Place	8	31	57
	Average 6.675675676	Total plots 1117	Total waiting 3112

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Additional sources and background reading:

Edible estates (food growing social housing): <http://www.edibleestates.co.uk/benefits-of-community-growing/>

LGA (2009) overview: <https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/place-grow-supplementary--736.pdf>

Social farms and gardens (support/workshops for community gardens in London): <https://www.farmgarden.org.uk/your-area/london>

Small holdings and allotments act 1908: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Edw7/8/36>

Federation of city farms and community gardens (information about how to make a community site work): https://www.farmgarden.org.uk/system/files/project_allotment.pdf

Sustain (London advice on community food growing incl some case studies): <https://www.sustainweb.org/resources/files/reports/Sustain-Briefing-Councils-and-Food-Growing.pdf>

Southwark Allotment Expansion guarantee (food growing on housing land): <https://allotmentexpansionguarantee.commonplace.is/about>

Capital growth (supporting food growing in London): <https://www.capitalgrowth.org/>

Case studies of London community gardens and city farms: <https://londonharvestfestival.org.uk/community-gardens-and-growing/>

Herbal Hackney (social enterprise offering training * workshops from a Hackney garden): <https://www.hackneyherbal.com/>

Social Farms and Gardens (info about community food growing): <https://www.farmgarden.org.uk/your-area/london>

Rules surrounding the individual use of allotment plots: <https://www.farmgarden.org.uk/system/files/allotlawandcommgrowing.pdf>

Mind: garden/outdoor benefits during the pandemic

<https://www.mind.org.uk/news-campaigns/news/over-7-million-have-taken-up-gardening-since-the-pandemic-new-research-shows-spending-more-time-in-nature-has-boosted-nation-s-wellbeing/>

Lewisham Local – community food growing projects

<https://www.lewishamlocal.com/community-gardens-food-growing-projects-in-lewisham/>

Plot 22 (social project Brighton for mental health)

<https://www.farmgarden.org.uk/plot-22-brighton>

SLAM (Grounding project supporting refugees & asylum seekers)

<https://maudsleycharity.org/case-studies/grounding-project-grows-hope-in-the-garden/>

Thrive – using gardening to change lives

<https://www.thrive.org.uk/get-gardening>

MIND – nature and mental health

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/nature-and-mental-health/ideas-to-try-in-nature/>

Growing in the community https://www.nsalg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/growing-in-the-community_bookletA4.pdf

Donating fresh food to food banks

<https://www.nsalg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/donations-to-food-banks.pdf>

National Allotment Society guidance for Councils and Landlords

<https://www.nsalg.org.uk/resources-and-downloads/landlords-and-councils/>

Public Health England: local action on health inequalities improving access to green spaces

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/355792/Briefing8_Green_spaces_health_inequalities.pdf

APSE state of the market 2022 (review of national allotment numbers)

<https://apse.org.uk/index.cfm/apse/members-area/briefings/2022/22-33-state-of-the-market-allotments/>

Lewisham Parks and Open Spaces strategy

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s73570/Parks%20and%20Open%20Space%20Strategy%202020.pdf>

Coco collective <https://coco-collective-community-hub.business.site/>

Grow Lewisham (community food growing project) <https://www.growlewisham.com/sites>

Good food Lewisham (part of Lewisham Local): <https://www.goodfoodlewisham.org/>

Brighton and Hove allotment strategy: <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2021-05/OD49%20Allotment%20strategy%202014-2024.pdf>

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