

**Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 - Allotments Waiting List  
Register**

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**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to update the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee on the actions that have been taken in response to duties placed on the Council under Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 which provides a legal framework that promotes and encourages community empowerment and participation in growing food.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Members asked to note the Allotments Waiting List Register update which reflects the duties placed on local authorities arising from Part 9– Allotments of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

**3.0 DETAIL**

- 3.1 The council’s Business Continuity Committee on 16 April 2020 adopted Argyll and Bute’s first Community Food Growing Strategy. The Strategy’s vision is to encourage and enable people in our community, who wish to grow their own food, by providing information on potential community food growing spaces, advice and guidance.
- 3.2 Developing the strategy was a duty placed on the council by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, which requires each local authority to produce a food growing strategy. It also places a duty on the council to establish and maintain an allotments waiting list register and to produce an allotments report for the area each year.
- 3.4 At the time of preparing this report 68 individuals had requested to be included on the Register.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Number of Individuals on the waiting list</b>
Bute and Cowal	24
Helensburgh & Lomond	36
Mid Argyll, Kintyre & the Islands	10

Area	Number of Individuals on the waiting list
Oban Lorn & The Isles Area	8

- 3.5 Argyll and Bute Council has three allotment sites (as defined by the Act which are those on Local Authority land) one in Helensburgh and two in Rothesay. They are each managed by allotment associations. Other Community Food Growing Spaces such as community gardens and schools exist within a number of mainland and island sites which are managed by local dedicated community members and school groups.
- 3.6 As the Council does not currently directly manage allotments, Legal and Regulatory Support Officers have established relationships with allotment sites and other land owners. With agreement from those that have submitted their details these are then passed to these independently managed sites in anticipation of securing land for the purposes of growing food.
- 3.7 In order to complement the Community Food Growing Strategy Legal and Regulatory Support have also created a dedicated Community growing spaces website, which can be accessed by following this [LINK](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/community-growing-spaces) (https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/community-growing-spaces). The website holds useful information relating to Community Empowerment, including allotment legislation and guidance for community groups who are interested in growing their own food.

#### 4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The adoption of the Argyll and Bute Council Community Food Growing Strategy met the councils duty under Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, officers continue to provide information to support individuals and community groups who wish to grow their own food.

#### 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy - None
- 5.2 Financial – None
- 5.3 Legal - Meeting our duty to produce a Food Growing Strategy, Allotment Waiting List and Rules and Regulations under Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
- 5.4 HR - None
- 5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty – None
- 5.5.1 Equalities – None

5.5.2 Socio-Economic Duty – None

5.5.3 Islands Duty – None

5.6 Risk - Failure to report the Allotments Waiting List Register means we do not fulfil our duties placed on local authorities arising from Part 9 – Allotments of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

5.7 Customer Service - None

### **Executive Director with responsibility for Legal and Regulatory Support**

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