

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 5th September 2012

Portfolio: Cllr Ciaran Wells, Parks and Open Spaces

Report Author: Chief Planning and Transportation Officer

Title of Report: Allotment Regeneration in Hyndburn – progress and update

Customer First Analysis

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update on progress with allotment regeneration and new allotment service arrangements. It summarises progress with allotment management and site improvements. It also sets out the proposed next steps in the ongoing development of the service.
- 1.2 A key aim of the allotment regeneration programme and the allotment service is to enable more people to benefit from food growing and the wider social, health and well-being benefits of allotment life. This includes encouraging and providing opportunities for more people from disadvantaged groups to get involved.
- 1.3 There are a number of the equality characteristics which could be relevant to the allotment resource and service:-
- Age, with consideration of older age groups and younger people
 - Disability, including wider considerations of well-being, mobility and mental health
 - Pregnancy and maternity, in relation to suitability of site conditions and facilities
 - Race, religion or belief, in relation to ethnic communities

2. Evidence


- 2.1 The Council uses a first come first served waiting list process and maintains databases of current allotment tenants together with waiting list people. Some information is gathered at the time when waiting list applications are made. Analysis of post code data has been carried out for some of the priority sites serving disadvantaged areas.
- 2.2 Direct consultation is carried out with the allotment community to guide the detail of site improvements. This has included consultation with disability support groups, tenants and waiting list people, partner organisations.
- 2.3 Partner organisations organise activities to support and encourage people from disadvantaged groups and provide information on what improvements are required to meet their needs.

3. Impact

- 3.1 Equality considerations for the allotment resource and service relate principally to ensuring that the physical characteristics of allotment sites are suitable for all people and abilities.
- 3.2 Proximity of the resource to some neighbourhoods may also affect the likelihood of some people getting involved, for example from the minority ethnic communities.
- 3.3 It is proposed to carry out a consultation with the whole allotment community – both existing tenants and people on the waiting lists. The questionnaire will seek their views on the allotment sites, the service and it will request some information which can help to monitor equality considerations.

4. Actions

- 4.1 The consultation will provide the foundation for a review of priorities and development of an allotment strategy. This will include analysis of how well the resource and service is meeting the needs of all people in our communities and of any further actions that could be taken to address any imbalances.

Name:  Signed: Simon McRobert
Service Area: PLANNING + TRANSPORT Dated: 5 SEP 2012

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