

## **11/282. GRANT APPLICATION FOR EXTERNAL FUNDING**

### **Introduction**

This report sets out a project that would enable enhanced delivery across the Council's allotment sites with a focus on wellbeing. It asks Leisure and Environment Committee for confirmation to submit an application for £9,725 to the Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC), the funding body, to progress the "Allotments for All" proposed project.

### **"Allotments for All" project**

The proposed project seeks to diversify use of allotment plots across the eleven Council allotment sites. It seeks to reduce vacant plots, improve quality of management, encourage more, and a wider range of people, to use and enjoy growing on allotments and plans to also target underrepresented groups at allotments. The project plans to facilitate education and mentoring to upskill new allotment holders with the outcome of better health and wellbeing for project participants. More broadly the project will celebrate growing and the benefits of grow your own through new marketing, educational materials and events.

The project sets out to -

Recruit a new generation of allotment holders with *a wider emphasis on attracting families, women and younger plot holders below retirement age* who are currently underrepresented.

Encouraging *ethnic diversity* and practical support for new tenants who may be lacking confidence & knowledge on growing in the UK climate. Offering opportunities for tenants to share their traditions and cultural experience with more unusual crops and crop cultivation using shared plots and beginner plots.

Create *community plots* where tenants can jointly manage a plot in a safe and practical way – perhaps for mental health, physical health, lack of experience or just because a single plot is too large. Supported by new allotment mentors.

*Engaging volunteers* in a portable 'Friends of' style work team across all sites to undertake infrastructure works on allotments – made up of prospective tenants, additional needs groups, existing tenants, D of E students and families.

Providing opportunities for a *family friendly environment* to understand the health value of growing your own food: improving dietary health and family cohesion, and education on the environmental value of allotments as urban green corridors and networks for nature.

Teaching people about the *health and wellbeing value* of growing and eating fresh food in a practical physically active setting. Emphasise the values of physical and mental

exercise from gardening. Engaging with health-related charities and social prescribers.

Enabling all plot holders to *communicate* via social media, informal social events and a new newsletter. Provide sociable learning opportunities by creating and sustaining regular get togethers and discussions, talks and inductions for tenants.

Encouraging existing experienced plot holders to *mentor* others, providing support and encouragement. With guidance, training and support from Council to do this. .

Recruit more site representatives as part of the project, encouraging tenants to use them to represent their needs and provide effective communication between sites as well as direct to Council.

Provide an *induction pack* and process for onboarding new tenants. Offer allotment *open days* with guided tours to encourage new tenants and to showcase the work of plot holders.

Host an annual celebration of growing and family friendly fun *produce show*.

### **Proposed Outline Budget**

Plot marking and maintenance machinery £1,650

Physical access improvements £3,500

Allotment holder Induction pack and regular newsletter £550

Staffing & costs towards new management system £1,500

Set up Friends of and volunteering groups and clubs £500

Tools for target groups £200

Target marketing £210

Celebration Show £1,615

TOTAL £9,725

The committee is **RECOMMENDED** to note the report and agree the submission of the grant application to SALC for project delivery.

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