

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 17 JANUARY 2017

ALLOTMENTS IN ANGUS

1. BACKGROUND

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 received Royal Assent on 24 July 2015. The Act requires each local authority to prepare and publish an annual allotments report for its area. The required report gives a range of detailed information on allotments in the area and the council's management of those allotments.

Angus Council currently owns four allotment sites, three of which are leased to allotment associations and one of which is actively managed by Angus Council.

2. CURRENT POSITION

The three allotment sites managed by Allotment Associations are located at:-

- Maule Street, Carnoustie – managed by Carnoustie Allotment Association
- Croft Terrace, Kirriemuir - managed by Kirriemuir Community Allotment Association
- Brechin Road, Arbroath – managed by and Arbroath Allotment Association

Each allotment association leases the entire site from the Council for a set rent and then splits the site up into a number of plots which they lease to individual plot holders.

Each allotment association is responsible for all aspects of plot and plot holder management, including plot rents, maintenance and management of their own waiting list etc, with Angus Council having no responsibility or control over individual plots.

Two Stage 1 Community Asset Transfer requests were received for the Carnoustie and Arbroath Allotment sites. Both requests were refused on the basis that, as the Council has a duty to provide allotment space, it would not be best interest for existing allotment space to be transferred out of Angus Council's control. However, local Communities Officers are continuing to work with both of the groups in question to develop a business case, including community benefits, for a long lease that would offer the Allotment Associations the stability and security they desire.

The allotment site in Montrose is actively managed by Angus Council. There are 23 plots which are leased individual to plot holders and there is a waiting list for them. The rents are set on a pro-rata basis (i.e. a larger plot commands a larger rent) and are broadly in line with plot rents within the allotment association run sites. Each plot holder is issued a lease which clearly states the annual rent and their obligations in terms of keeping the plot tidy and free from weeds etc.

The community and residents of Angus benefit from having access to allotment gardens with plot holders able to grow their own fruit, vegetables and flowers.

There are other allotments within Angus on privately owned ground.

In accordance with the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 an annual report will be produced and reported to a later Communities Committee.