

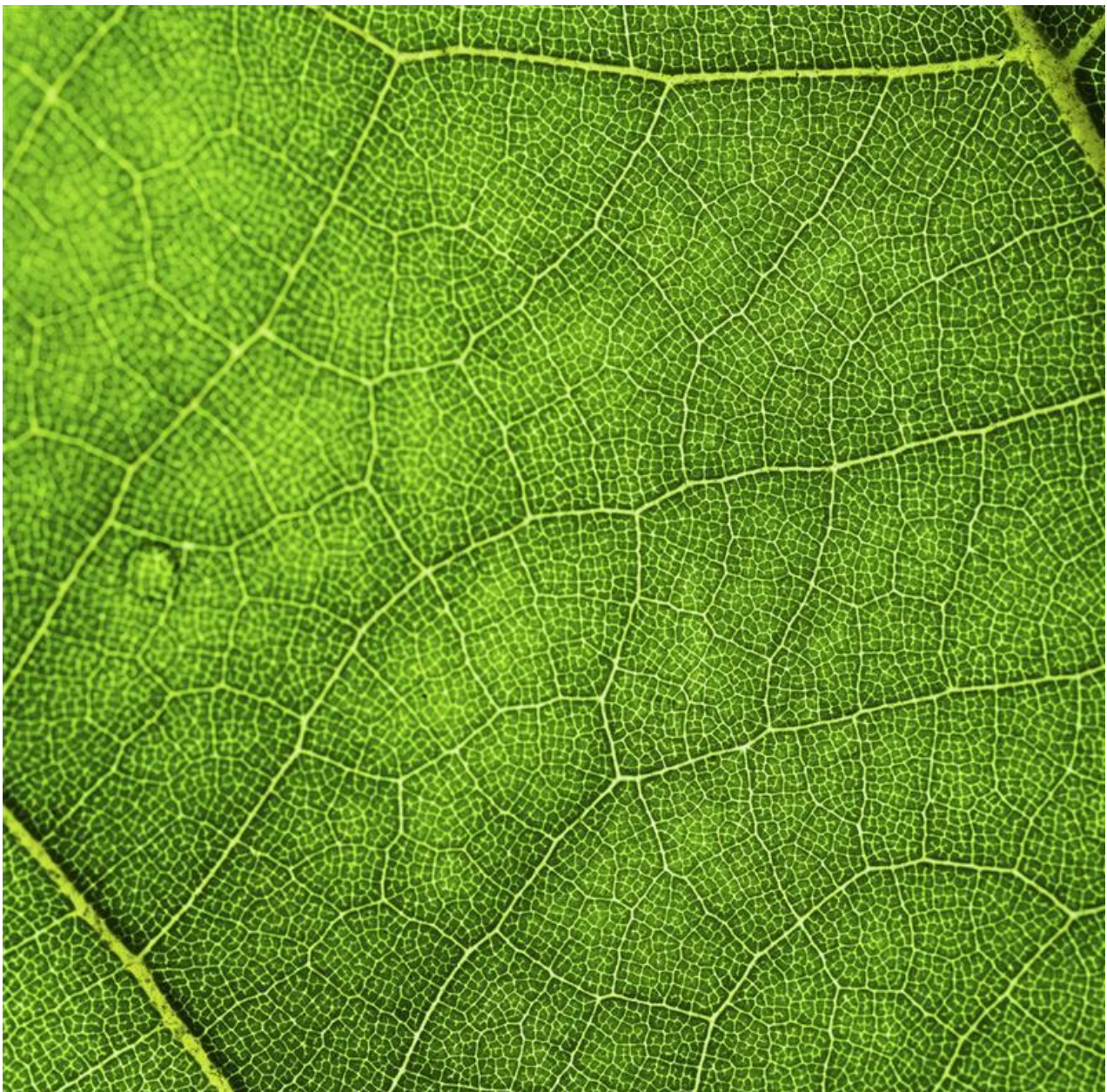
Greater Cambridge Food Growing Spaces Study

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service

Final report (excluding Delivery and Stewardship Strategy)

Prepared by LUC and Social Life

May 2026



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Contents

Chapter 1	6
Introduction	
Purpose of the study	6
Definitions	7
Wider context for food growing in the UK	9
Greater Cambridge context	10
Emerging Local Plan context	11
Planning policy addressing food growing	15
Allotment and food growing space standards in the emerging Local Plan (Regulation 18)	15
Chapter 2	17
Current provision in Greater Cambridge	
Allotments	18
Community gardens and community orchards	23
Other food growing spaces	26
Chapter 3	30
Delivering the Emerging Local Plan requirements	
Site allocation typologies	30
Requirements for provision of food growing space in the Emerging Local Plan	31
Chapter 4	39
Potential approaches to delivering food growing through the emerging Local Plan	
Assessment of food growing potential of emerging site allocations	39
Recommended types of food growing space to be sought by site typology	54
Cost of provision of food growing space	60

Chapter 5 **65**

Recommended approach to food growing in the emerging Local Plan

Approach and proposed policy wording 66

Chapter 6 **72**

Delivery and Stewardship Strategy

Chapter 7 **73**

Summary and recommendations

Summary 73

Key Recommendations 77

References **79**

Table of Tables

Table 1.1: Quantity of Allotments and Food Growing Spaces in Cambridge City	10
Table 1.2: Quantity of Allotments and Food Growing Spaces in South Cambridgeshire	10
Table 1.3: Housing trajectory with population site estimates	14
Table 3.1: Site typologies	30
Table 3.2: Area of land required for food growing, by site	33
Table 3.3: Area of land required for food growing, by site typology	38
Table 4.1: Food growing opportunities - Cambridge urban area	41
Table 4.2: Food growing opportunities - Edge of Cambridge	45
Table 4.3: Food growing opportunities - New settlements	46
Table 4.4: Food growing opportunities - Rural southern cluster	48
Table 4.5: Food growing opportunities - Rest of rural area	50
Table 4.6: Potential of site allocations to meet the food growing standard, by typology	52
Table 4.7: Recommended types of food growing space by site typology	55
Table 4.8: Food growing space requirements	60

Table 4.9: Costs of provision of capital items

61

Appendix A

Maps

Appendix B

Food growing case studies for Greater Cambridge

Appendix C

Allotment and community growing space survey

Appendix D

Site allocation typology analysis

Appendix E

Assessment of food growing potential of emerging allocations

Appendix F

Statement of Consultation

Chapter 1

Introduction

Purpose of the study

1.1 The Emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan identifies the key strategic areas in which development will be focused across Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire during the plan period to 2045 and beyond. From the planned and proposed residential growth across Greater Cambridge, the population is projected to increase by approximately 216,432 people. To support this projected growth, the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (GCSPS) is required to ensure adequate provision and maintenance of community infrastructure, including for allotments and other food growing spaces.

1.2 Ensuring a long-term, sustainable supply of food-growing spaces for both existing and future communities is a key priority of the Local Plan. The Emerging Local Plan sets out the vision of Greater Cambridge as a place where climate and environmental impacts are significantly reduced, balanced with the improved quality of life for communities and continued flourishing of the innovation economy. The importance of improving the network of nature, wildlife and multifunctional green spaces is highlighted. The development strategy intends for green infrastructure, including opportunities for food growing, to be delivered alongside new development.

1.3 This Study will support the GCSPS by assembling the necessary evidence, shaping a policy framework that enables delivery, identifying funding opportunities, and exploring the most effective ways for these spaces to be delivered and managed throughout the plan period and beyond. It will also clarify the respective roles of the Councils and other stakeholders in making this possible.

1.4 The Study looks beyond traditional allotments to consider how potential alternative models of delivery may be used to secure food growing spaces across different development typologies. Alternative food growing spaces can be more flexible, accessible and inclusive than traditional allotments, supporting shared growing, smaller plots, or collective management rather than long-term individual leases, offering a more practical way to participate in food production with low barriers to entry. Also, there are increasingly examples of very different and genuinely innovative ways of providing spaces to grow food that are being showcased and proving successful.

1.5 The Study comprises the following:

- Stage 1: The establishment of an evidence base to identify the current demand and supply of allotments and alternative food growing spaces, including a desktop audit and assessment of existing spaces, and engagement with relevant Council Service providers, Parish Councils and other organisations who are involved with the provision of these spaces.
- Stage 2: A needs assessment for allotments and alternative food growing spaces to inform the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, covering both planned and proposed development across Greater Cambridge, along with associated costs. The assessment identifies the required provision of allotment and alternative food-growing spaces, including estimates of costs and ongoing maintenance requirements.
- Stage 3: Recommendations to support the delivery and stewardship of allotments and alternative food growing spaces in Greater Cambridge, including defining the future role of Councils.

Definitions

1.6 The set of definitions below seek to address the core types of food growing space that the study is covering. Some definitions are of terms that are deliberately broad; for example 'informal growing spaces' refer more to the space itself than the type of food growing activity which could be a traditional form of allotment-style gardening, vertical growing, bee-keeping, forest garden, etc. We present good examples of such innovative ways of growing later in the report.

Allotment

1.7 An allotment is a growing space with a primary purpose of cultivating fresh local food (including fruit and vegetables) by allotment holders/members for their own consumption on land leased either from a local council or private landlord. This can also include the keeping of hens and bees, that helps to attracting pollinators.

1.8 The standard post-war plot size is 10 'rods', or approximately 250sqm. This size is believed to have come from the idea that this could provide a family of four with enough fruits, vegetables, and flowers throughout the year. As the urban population rises and the available space reduces, in addition to increased demand from beginners or busy individuals, plots have been getting smaller (often "half plots" or "quarter plots") on allotments provided as part of new developments.

Community Garden

1.9 Shared food growing spaces with a primary purpose of cultivating fresh, local food on a collective basis for communal consumption on land often leased either from a local council or private landlord. These gardens are primarily for growing fruit and vegetables, although some include the keeping of hens and bees to attract pollinators.

Community Orchard

1.10 These follow the same principle as community gardens above, except they focus almost exclusively on the growth of fruit trees.

Community Farm

1.11 A farm where the land is collectively held for the benefit of the community rather than owned privately. It is managed by a cooperative or community-led group, and members work together to grow and harvest crops for shared use or distribution in the wider community. This model supports sustainable agriculture by encouraging collaboration, shared responsibility, and efficient use of resources among community participants.

Informal growing space

1.12 Pockets of predominantly urban land that, while not usually officially recognised or managed by local authorities, support informal opportunities for growing food. They are typically found in places such as vacant or previously developed sites and are defined by their lack of formal oversight and minimal maintenance. Often they can include the creation of raised beds, particularly on land which is not capable of cultivation.

Roof garden

1.13 A roof garden is a garden on the roof of a building, which may provide benefits including opportunities for food growing.

Edible landscaping

1.14 Edible landscaping is the practice of incorporating food producing plants into a decorative landscape or garden setting. This approach merges traditional ornamental design with the cultivation of fruits, vegetables, herbs, and edible flowers.

Wider context for food growing in the UK

1.15 Community gardening is gaining significant momentum across the UK, offering many benefits beyond food production, bringing together communities and empowering people with new skills, serving as spaces for cultural exchange and welcoming friendship and connection. Community gardens also have a multitude of benefits for biodiversity and health. For the 1 in 8 (12%) British households without access to a private garden, community gardens are in particularly high demand [\[See reference 1\]](#).

1.16 A study by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) in 2025 [\[See reference 2\]](#) showed that an estimated 2.5 million adults have gardened in their communities in the past three years, and 14.7 million adults say they are interested in joining community gardening initiatives. Bringing the community together, supporting physical and mental wellbeing and encouraging more people to enjoy gardening or grow plants were key motivators for getting involved. The community gardening movement is growing across the UK, with almost half of groups reporting increases in volunteer numbers.

1.17 Community gardens are a largely urban phenomenon, with 76% being in urban areas. Community gardening groups come in many forms including community gardens, allotments with community areas, community gardens within parks, school gardens and smaller solutions such as shared containers on the street and shared spaces in housing developments. Over half of community gardens use land that is owned by a local authority, with just 3% of community garden groups owning their own sites. The majority rely on leases and partnership arrangements [\[See reference 3\]](#).

1.18 Many community gardens are facing significant challenges and an uncertain future, with 30% of groups whose primary purpose is community gardening operating on a budget of under £500 a year. Community gardens also face barriers to and challenges around access to funding, volunteer recruitment and retention, lack of administrative support and governance skills and lack of water supply [\[See reference 4\]](#).

Greater Cambridge context

1.19 An assessment of the quality of existing Green and Open Space Typologies was undertaken in 2025 under the Greater Cambridge Green Infrastructure Study [See reference 5]. **Table 1.1** and **Table 1.2** below show the quantity of allotments and food growing spaces in Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire, with their distribution shown in the maps making up **Figure 1.1** in **Appendix A** (see separate report).

Table 1.1: Quantity of Allotments and Food Growing Spaces in Cambridge City
[See reference 6]

Type	Total No. Sites	Total Area (Ha)
Allotments	28	36
Community Orchards	1	2
Community Gardens	3	0.85

Table 1.2: Quantity of Allotments and Food Growing Spaces in South Cambridgeshire
[See reference 7]

Type	Total No. Sites	Total Area (Ha)
Allotments	87	87.6
Community Orchards	16	7.9
Community Gardens	1	0.55

1.20 Allotments are a valuable asset for Cambridge, offering important benefits for local communities and the environment. They provide accessible, low-cost green space that supports wildlife and offers opportunities for recreation, exercise, social connection, and growing affordable fresh produce. Allotments also help reduce social and economic barriers, while contributing to wider environmental and community goals [See reference 8].

1.21 As shown in **Table 1.1**, there is a limited provision of 28 allotment sites within the Cambridge City Council area covering a total land area of 36ha, in addition to one community orchard and three community gardens. South Cambridgeshire (**Table 1.2**) has a significantly larger provision of 87 allotment sites covering 87.6ha, in addition to one community garden and 16 community orchards.

1.22 The report produced for Cambridge City Council by Ashley Godfrey Associates in 2010 [See reference 9] audited the City's allotment provision and recommended an approach to managing Council-owned green space assets, including allotments, for the period 2010 to 2014. This established the prevailing management approach for food growing spaces in the City. Recommendations included quality standards and the production of an Allotments Management Policy which has since been adopted by Cambridge City Council.

1.23 The housing growth proposed in the adopted Local Plans for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire (and the respective local plans adopted prior to those) propose significant growth in a number of locations. Some of these sites are now coming forward and some are also proposing further growth in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan. What is significant is that all development allocations have been required to deliver food growing space on site:

- Darwin Green in north-west Cambridge is currently under development. It was allocated in the Cambridge City Local Plan for a mixed use development including 1,593 dwellings. Policy S/HHR in the Emerging Local Plan establishes that it will provide approximately a further 2,700 dwellings alongside a range of services and facilities, including allotments.
- Trumpington Meadow in south-west Cambridge was allocated in the Cambridge City Local Plan for a mixed use development including 600 dwellings. This included allotment provision.
- Eddington (North West Cambridge) currently provides around 1,850 homes. When completed, Eddington will deliver approximately 5,500 homes, forming an extension to Cambridge. Policy S/NWC in the Emerging Local Plan establishes that this mixed-use development should include allotments, community gardens, and orchards.
- Northstowe new town is under construction, with nearly 2,000 homes completed as of 2025. Policy S/NST in the Emerging Local Plan sets out that the new town will eventually deliver around 10,180 homes, supported by a range of employment, retail and community uses including allotments and community orchards totalling 4 hectares.
- Waterbeach New Town is another planned settlement, similar to the size of Northstowe where development has just commenced.

Emerging Local Plan context

1.24 The Emerging Local Plan (Regulation 18) sets out the vision of Greater Cambridge as a place where climate and environmental impacts are significantly

reduced, balanced with the improved quality of life for communities and continued flourishing of the innovation economy.

1.25 The Emerging Local Plan's Strategic Priorities address the following areas:

- Climate change
- Biodiversity and green spaces
- Great places
- Wellbeing and social inclusion
- Homes
- Jobs
- Infrastructure

1.26 The enhancement of allotments and food-growing spaces across Greater Cambridge can support the achievement of several strategic priorities by helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change through encouraging local food production; enhancing biodiversity by introducing varied habitats, pollinator resources, and ecological connectivity; and creating great places by transforming underused land into community-focused spaces that strengthen local identity. Food growing spaces can also help to improve wellbeing and social inclusion by offering opportunities for physical activity, social interaction, learning, and access to fresh produce.

1.27 Draft Policy BG/GI: Green and blue infrastructure establishes that all development must demonstrate how it protects and enhances green and blue infrastructure appropriate to the development's scale and location. Allotments and community gardening are initiatives which form an identified priority for enhancing strategic green infrastructure across Greater Cambridge. Policy WS/HD: Creating healthy new developments highlights that developments will promote health and wellbeing by providing opportunities to access healthy food, including through allotments and food growing opportunities.

1.28 The need to protect open spaces, including allotments and community gardens, is highlighted in draft Policy BG/PO: Protecting open spaces, which states that, 'development proposals will not be permitted where they would harm the character of, or lead to the loss of, protected open space of environmental and/or recreational importance as identified on the policies map, or undesignated areas that fulfil the criteria used to assess protected open space, unless the existing open space can be satisfactorily replaced to an equivalent or better standard in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility'.

1.29 As stated earlier, the Emerging Local Plan builds on the sites already allocated in the current adopted plans for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire. **Table 1.3** shows the housing growth proposed by site allocation, the expected population and the growth that is proposed beyond the plan period for each site allocation. The total population growth is estimated to be 203,494, with 71,231 of that occurring after 2045.

1.30 Later phases of development on major site allocations within the existing Local Plans for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire, including Cambridge East, Grange Farm New Settlement and the Cambourne North extension, present important opportunities to deliver a wider range of food-growing spaces. Experience from earlier phases highlights clear learning points, particularly the scope to be more ambitious and to incorporate more innovative and diverse food-growing solutions as these sites progress.

1.31 In the wider Greater Cambridge context, the concentration of large science and innovation parks also presents significant opportunities to provide food-growing spaces in an employment setting. These spaces are likely to take a different form, responding to their context and supporting food growing that is accessible to employees during the daytime, contributing to wellbeing, social interaction and sustainable place-making.

Table 1.3: Housing trajectory with population site estimates

Site	No. of Dwellings (full build out)	Multiplier	Housing 2024-2045	Pop. 2024-2045	Housing post-2045	Pop. post-2045	Housing 2024-post-2045	Pop. 2024-post-2045	Total Pop.
S/BA: Bourn Airfield New Village	3,500	2.85	3,500	9,975	0	0	3,500	9,975	9,975
S/CB: Cambourne West	2,606	2.85	2,050	5,843	0	0	2,050	5,843	7,427
S/CBN: Cambourne North	13,000	2.85	2,550	7,268	10,450	29,783	13,000	37,050	37,050
S/CBC: Cambridge Biomedical Campus	1,000	1.80	1000	1,800	0	0	1,000	1,800	1,800
S/CE: Cambridge East (Marleigh & Springstead Village)	2,591	2.70	2,169	5,856	0	0	2,169	5,856	6,996
S/CE: Cambridge East (airport)	8,000	2.70	3,950	10,665	4,050	10,935	8,000	21,600	21,600
Cambridge urban area – allocations	1,916	2.40	1,916	4,598	0	0	1,916	4,598	4,598
Cambridge urban area – windfalls	3,124	2.40	3,124	7,498	0	0	3,124	7,498	7,498
S/HHR: Darwin Green	2,573	2.70	2,242	6,053	0	0	2,242	6,053	6,947
S/GF: Grange Farm New Settlement	6,000	2.85	2,550	7,268	3,450	9,833	6,000	17,100	17,100
S/EOC/NOW/SWO: Land N&S of Worts' Causeway	430	2.70	430	1,161	0	0	430	1,161	1,161
S/NEC: North East Cambridge (inc Brookgate)	1,365	2.05	665	1,363	700	1,435	1,365	2,798	2,798
S/NS: Northstowe	10,186	2.85	6,229	17,753	1,480	4,218	7,709	21,971	29,030
S/NWC: North West Cambridge (Eddington)	3,872	1.80	2,616	4,709	0	0	2,616	4,709	6,970
S/NWC: North West Cambridge (Eddington densification)	2,500	1.80	2,500	4,500	0	0	2,500	4,500	4,500
Rural area - allocations	1,916	2.60	1,916	5,012	0	0	1,916	5,012	5,012
Rural area - windfalls	3,979	2.60	3,979	10,345	0	0	3,979	10,345	10,345
S/WNT: Waterbeach New Town	11,000	2.85	5,727	16,322	5,273	15,028	11,000	31,350	31,350
S/WGC: Wellcome Genome Campus	1,500	2.85	1,500	4,275	0	0	1,500	4,275	4,275
Remaining Other / Smaller Sites	873	2.85	873	2,488	0	0	873	2,488	2,488
Total (full buildout incl. pre-2024 Population)	81,058		50,613	132,263	25,403	71,231	76,016	203,494	216,432
Total (pre-2024)	5,042								12,938
Total (2024-45)			50,613	132,263					
Total (post-2045)					25,403	71,231			
Total (2024-post-2045)							76,016	203,494	203,494
Greater Cambridge baseline population in 2024	322,000			132,263		71,231		203,494	
Population change from 2024 baseline				41.08%		22.12%		63.20%	

Planning policy addressing food growing

1.32 At the heart of the NPPF is the presumption in favour of sustainable development. Underpinning this is a series of objectives, one of which is promoting healthy and safe communities. Paragraph 96 requires planning policies to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which enable and support healthy lives, both through promoting good health and preventing ill-health, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs and reduce health inequalities between the most and least deprived communities. The examples given include provision of allotments. This recognises that allotments can contribute towards achieving the objective of promoting healthy and safe communities. Paragraph 154b includes allotments as ‘appropriate facilities’ which are permitted in the green belt. However, other than these references, there are no other policy directions given at a national level relating to allotments. Moreover, national planning policy is silent about the broader consideration of food growing spaces more generally; for example, it is unclear whether community gardens are considered to represent appropriate facilities in the green belt in lieu of allotments.

1.33 At local plan level, reference to food production is almost non-existent. An MSc research project in 2025 [See reference 10] found that local plans repeatedly use the term ‘allotment’ and respect the statutory responsibility to provide allotment space for citizens, but do not explore the concept of food production in other types of green space.

1.34 It is important therefore for local plan policy to address the sustainability of food growing. This is set within the wider context of national planning policy that is largely silent on the issue.

Allotment and food growing space standards in the emerging Local Plan (Regulation 18)

1.35 In the emerging Local Plan (Regulation 18) Policy BG/EO: Providing and enhancing open spaces establishes that new development must address the open space needs it generates, to be secured through a mix of on-site provision and/or financial contributions for off-site provision, enhancement and/or management. Major development proposals will be required to demonstrate how green and/or open space standards will be met through a Green Infrastructure Plan. They must also demonstrate provision of food growing space equivalent to 0.4ha per 1,000 population, to ensure no net loss of provision with alternative, space efficient formats.

The policy states that provision should be delivered on-site by default, to provide access and wellbeing benefits close to where people live. However, where land availability constraints can be evidenced, alternative, more space efficient formats to traditional food growing spaces can be provided onsite, or where the estimated population is at a scale where the quantity of food growing space required would be too small to be an effective space, off-site provision may be allowable. Where justified, this provision can be provided off-site via financial contributions. Proposals should have management and maintenance agreements in place, secured by planning conditions.

1.36 Policy GP/QP: Establishing high quality landscape and public realm establishes that development proposals will be required to deliver high quality landscape and public realm, and as part of this should utilise open spaces in flexible ways including for allotments. As such, design should consider access to power and water.

1.37 The Regulation 19 version of the Emerging Local Plan will further refine these policies, including Policy BG/EO, in light of the evidence in this report. However, the 0.4 hectare per 1,000 population standard will remain as the expected standard for provision.

1.38 Applying this standard (0.4ha per 1,000 population) to the growth proposed for Greater Cambridge in **Table 1.3** would result in a requirement of more than 19 hectares of food growing space in Cambridge City and nearly 34 hectares in South Cambridgeshire.

Chapter 2

Current provision in Greater Cambridge

2.1 This section sets out the demand, supply and quality of existing food growing spaces across Greater Cambridge, in addition to looking at their needs for improvement and examples of good practice, both in Greater Cambridge and beyond. The examples of good practice cited are included as part of a wider review presented in **Appendix B**.

2.2 Provision of food growing spaces in Greater Cambridge is spread across a number of different providers. Information was therefore collected in different ways according to the provider and the most effective way of engaging with them:

- Cambridge City Council-owned allotment information was gathered directly from the Council.
- Information from allotments and other spaces run by other bodies (mainly allotment societies) in Cambridge City was gathered by way of a survey.
- Information from allotments and other spaces run by other bodies (mainly allotment societies and parish councils) in South Cambridgeshire was gathered by way of a survey.

2.3 The surveys were sent out to allotment managers covering all the allotments in South Cambridgeshire and those in Cambridge City not owned by the City Council. Most commonly these allotments were operated and managed by allotment societies although some are under the control of the local parish or town council. Some societies and parish/town councils are responsible for multiple allotments.

2.4 Around 60 responses to the survey were received (i.e. responses were received about over 60 different allotment and growing space locations) with a response rate of 35%. 85% of survey responses received related just to allotments, with 10% relating to community orchards and 2% (one response) relating to a community garden. The remainder of responses concerned 'other' types of space, which was used in two instances to describe spaces comprising of a combination of allotment, community orchard and community space elements.

2.5 A summary of the questions asked and the responses to the survey are presented in **Appendix C**.

Allotments

Supply

2.6 Of the responses received relating to allotment spaces, the highest proportion (25%) provide between 51-100 plots, with '1-10 plots' and '21-50 plots' capturing 23% and 19% of responses, respectively. 17% of allotments provide 11-20 plots, while only 8% of allotment spaces provide 101-150 plots, and 8% provide over 151 plots.

2.7 As such, there is moderate clustering of allotment sites in the mid-range size bracket. The largest share of responses reported 51–100 plots, indicating that medium-sized allotment sites are the most common within this survey sample. 1–10 plot sites might represent micro-allotments (sometimes combined with community gardens) or constrained urban spaces, whilst 21–50 plot sites may be typical of established but moderately sized local allotments. The relatively low proportions of larger sites may be due to land constraints or the administrative burden of managing large numbers of tenants.

2.8 Of the responses received providing information on plot size, 47% stated that the most common size of allotment plot provided were half plots (approximately 125sqm/5 rods), followed by 26% with full plots (approximately 250sqm/10 rods). Only 13% provided quarter plots (approximately 62sqm/2.5 rods).

Demand

2.9 62% of responses stated that the allotment space has a waiting list, compared with just 19% having spare plots available. The remaining 19% reported being full, with no waiting list. However, even where a waiting list exists, this is not always large. The most common waiting list size from the sample (13%) is just two people. The distribution of waiting list sizes is skewed, with an average of 24 people and a median of 13. This is explained by the fact that, while most allotment sites have short waiting lists, a small number have very long waiting lists (30-100+ people). This suggests that while many allotment sites have demand that broadly aligns with supply, there are a handful of popular sites with historically very long waiting lists. The allotments with longer waiting lists fall within the Cambridge City Council area and include Empty Common, Fanshawe Road, and Trumpington Allotment, the latter being the site with the highest demand (a waiting list of more than 100 people). This is shown in **Figure 1.2** in **Appendix A** (see separate report).

2.10 Complete data on the waiting lists for allotment spaces in South Cambridgeshire and spaces in Cambridge City not owned by Cambridge City Council is not available, with data on these having been collected through the survey. The total waiting list across Cambridge City Council-owned plots is 559. As reported in the survey, there is an additional waiting list of 276+ people across 11 sites managed by allotment societies in the City. Across South Cambridgeshire, a total waiting list of 55 people across eight sites was reported.

2.11 Waiting times are most often between 1-2 years, with the next most common time period being 6-12 months. Of the responses that provided relevant details, over the last 5 years, 41% of the allotments had experienced an increase in demand, while the demand for 54% of the sites had stayed broadly the same. 5% of allotment sites had witnessed a fall in demand.

2.12 No data was provided on allotment waiting lists or times for the Cambridge City Council-owned allotment sites.

2.13 Given the nature of provision, it was not possible to ascertain the demand for community gardens and orchards.

Quality

2.14 The survey participants were asked to rank the general quality of the allotment between 1 (very poor) and 10 (excellent). The average score was 7.24, with values mostly falling between 6 and 10, and 8 being the most common score. Only one outlier value scored very low (2), this being the Cambridge Road Allotments which reported a need for a watering system (it does not currently have one) and improvements to help those with limited mobility. The Allotment Society also stated that the allotments have become overgrown and unused and that they are currently in the process of rejuvenating them. There is low demand for plots at the site, with spare plots available.

2.15 Six allotment sites were scored as a 10. Of these, one was in South Cambridgeshire, with five in the City. Three of these are owned by Cambridge City Council, the other two being run by allotment societies. Notably, both sites managed by Whitehill Allotment Society were scored as a 10.

2.16 The survey found that the most common additional formal activities to take place at the allotment site were community gatherings and events, with 30% of responses to this question reporting such activities.

2.17 Among the survey responses, the most common infrastructure needs identified as being required to improve the quality of the allotment spaces centred around improving accessibility to the site, particularly regarding access routes. Other common needs included improved watering systems, the provision of watering systems where one is not currently in place, and new or improved fencing.

Potential for expansion

2.18 17% of sites reported that there may be opportunities to expand allotment provision onto adjacent land. Five of the nine sites that mentioned possible opportunities for future expansion fall within Cambridge City and include the Cambridge City Council-owned sites at Fanshawe Road, Ninewells and Trumpington Meadows, which sits within a large country park.

Delivery and Funding

2.19 Data from GCSPS shows that since 2018, allotment contributions have been secured through S106 agreements at 13 sites across Greater Cambridge. 12 of these 13 sites are in South Cambridgeshire, with one within the Cambridge City Council area.

2.20 The three largest contributions - £28,000, £20,800 and £14,600 – account for over 80% of all S106 contributions secured where planning permission required a contribution for allotment provision. However, as yet funds have only been received in relation to one development located at land south of St Neots Road, Hardwick, South Cambridgeshire. Received in 2024, this was just over £2,550 towards the ‘provision of allotments and/or a community orchard’.

2.21 South Cambridgeshire District Council launched an Allotment Improvement Grant in 2025, delivering a one-off grant of £100,000 for projects to be implemented by 31 March 2027. The grant provided up to £10,000 in funding to support projects that enhance the productivity, sustainability, and social value of allotment spaces. The projects are required to deliver tangible improvements enhancing the productivity and sustainability of allotments, and should specifically seek to:

- Improve access to water;
- Enhance pest control;
- Improve allotment facilities;
- Enhance social value.

2.22 The available funding has now been allocated and will be split across 16 organisations including allotment societies, parish councils, and charities across South Cambridgeshire. The highest awards of £10,000 were awarded to St George's Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association (Melbourn), Foxton Gardens Association, and Duxford Parish Council.

Recent experience of allotment provision in Greater Cambridge

2.23 Several emerging strategic site allocations include provision for food growing spaces. Engagement with GCSPS officers has provided their insights into the experiences of this provision and is provided below.

Darwin Green

- Development at Darwin Green will be bringing forward new allotment provision. However, the allotment waiting list has been geographically restricted and plots will be restricted to residents of the development for a 10-year period, with this being secured through the S106 agreement.
- LUC's review of the proposed food growing space standards for Greater Cambridge under the overall testing of the GI and Open Space standards included the assessment of the provision of food growing space provided at different types of development. The calculated quantity of food growing space at Darwin Green 'One' (1,593 dwellings) was 0.37 ha/1,000 of the population (just below the emerging Local Plan standard of 0.4ha/1,000 population).

Trumpington Meadows

- This site benefits from a very large existing country park, which has allowed allotments to be provided in addition to a community orchard, completed in 2024. The total area of both is 2.1 hectares.
- The allotments are managed by Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust and the sharing of responsibility with Cambridge City Council has made governance challenging. The presence of several different landowners adds further complexity to provision.
- The food growing facilities at Trumpington Meadows – both the allotments and community orchard - have proved popular, featuring public art and having the benefit of overlooking the Country Park.

Eddington

- The Eddington development has faced issues, with allotments promised in Phase 1 not delivered, despite space being available. Cambridge University, which controls and will permanently manage all open space on the site going forward, cites time and cost barriers as reasons why it has not been possible to provide the space.
- The new community is campaigning strongly for growing space to be provided in Phase 2 of the development, and Cambridge City Council continues to engage with the developer about this. As Phase 2 will now deliver higher unit numbers than under the outline planning permission, within the same developable area, alternative food growing typologies requiring less space will need to be considered.
- Cambridge City Council is requesting that a mixture of allotment plot sizes is delivered and, if the space is insufficient to meet required food growing standards, then alternative improvements should be sought to make the allotment site more usable. Community influence is limited, as the University retains all decision-making powers over the provision of open space.

Northstowe

- Northstowe has been planned as a sustainable new community with generous green space to support healthy lifestyles. Phase 1 (1,500 homes) will introduce 1.4 hectares of allotments and 0.18 hectares of orchard land.
- Although the developer is required to provide basic infrastructure, strong early community interest created an opportunity to co-design the site to respond to local needs. Residents helped shape a detailed plan and many volunteered either to take on a plot or join the implementation phase.
- A community group is expected to lead future management, though long-term governance will need agreement between South Cambridgeshire District Council, the Public Realm steering group and Greenbelt (the appointed management company).
- The co-design process revealed barriers such as lack of gardening experience and concerns over plot size. The final design includes smaller plots and a community gardening component, supporting skill-building, social interaction and broader participation. The re-imagined orchard also doubles as a social space, strengthening community ownership.

- This highlights the value in s106 agreements explicitly requiring community involvement in designing allotments and orchards. This gives a greater chance of maximising their use, social value and long-term success.
- LUC's assessment of the provision of food growing space provided at Northstowe - Phase 3b (1,000 dwellings) was 0.95 ha/1,000 population, significantly higher than the proposed standard of 0.4 ha/1,000 population.

Examples of good and innovative practice in allotment provision

2.24 Whilst allotments tend to be delivered on greenfield sites, this does not have to be the case. Grow Tottenham in London (case study 7 in **Appendix B**) transformed a former engineering depot site into an allotment/community garden. It includes a wildflower meadow, kitchen garden, micro-allotment plots, polytunnel, community kitchen, café, events space and carpentry workshop.

Community gardens and community orchards

Supply

2.25 Among the survey responses from those running community gardens and community orchards, there was no notable pattern observed between the size of growing spaces. Indeed, the smallest is 10sqm whilst the largest is over 4,000sqm.

2.26 Around half of the responses identified that there were potential opportunities to expand food growing space on adjacent land.

Demand

2.27 Community gardens and orchards have seen significant growth in popularity in recent years, bringing significant benefits to health, wellbeing, community cohesion, and the environment. These gardens strengthen social connections, reduce loneliness, and improve physical and mental health, while transforming neglected urban spaces into biodiverse, attractive, and safer places **[See reference 11]**. Where these spaces have been provided, they have proved highly successful. Some examples of successful community gardens are provided below.

2.28 The survey participants were asked to rank how well the community gardens and orchards were used. 88% reported that their growing space was used extremely or somewhat well, while 11% claimed that the growing space was hardly used.

2.29 In addition to food growing, around 30% of spaces were also used for community gatherings, with one community orchard being used for education/workshop purposes, and another for children's activities. Notably, Haslingfield Community Orchard was reported to have formal activities including all three uses.

Quality

2.30 The survey participants were asked to rank the general quality of the community gardens and orchards. Scores ranged from 4 to 10, with an average score of 7.1. The site scoring 10, Newton Road Allotments, provides allotments, a community growers' garden and a community orchard within one site.

2.31 Regarding infrastructure and maintenance needs, the most frequently reported needs among community gardens and orchards were new or improved watering systems and improved accessibility.

Recent experience of community garden provision in Greater Cambridge

2.32 Several emerging strategic site allocations include provision for community gardens. Insights from GCSPS officers identified various experiences of these sites which are discussed below.

Empty Common Community Garden

- Empty Common began as unused land behind a development, outside the original site boundary. It has since been transformed into a successful community garden.
- Supported by funding from Cambridge City Council, Transition Cambridge has played a key role in developing local growing skills. This, in turn, has helped build wider community interest and increased demand for growing space.

Nightingale Community Garden

- Nightingale Community Garden is a former disused bowling green which has been transformed into a community garden in Nightingale Park.

- Located near Addenbrooke's Hospital and the biomedical campus in South Cambridge, the garden has grown through a mix of successful funding bids for major improvements and ongoing community support.
- In May 2018, a community group called Nightingale Community Gardeners took over the site. It is a constituted organisation which can independently manage funds and coordinate wider activities.

Clay Farm Community Garden

- Clay Farm is seen as an exemplar community garden. It was made successful through strong early support from the developer, who managed the site for its first 10 years. This enabled it to quickly resolve issues on the ground, such as fixing infrastructure problems. The Clay Farm Community Gardens Community Interest Company (CIC) which was set up to run the garden has collaborated closely with the developer.
- The placement and orientation of the community garden was significantly influenced by the alignment of an existing high-pressure gas main. Consequently, the design responded to this constraint and successfully brought otherwise restricted land into productive use. The land is now being transferred to Cambridge City Council. An identified challenge moving forward is ensuring that traditional Council agreements relating to allotments are suitable or can be adapted to meet the specific needs of a community garden.
- The community garden benefits from facilities including a toilet, kitchenette, and storage, which were originally intended to be shared with the neighbouring allotments. However, as the allotments were delivered at a later stage, its users are now seeking their own dedicated facilities. Feedback from community garden users suggests that the provision of these facilities as part of the overall community garden was not as early as it ideally needed to be, although they are now well used. There is also a perception that the garden could have benefited from greater initial structure, with parts of the site, particularly the western area, left as a largely blank canvas at the outset.
- Clay Farm has successfully partnered with organisations such as Mind and Headspace, offering space for green social prescribing. Community gardens like this provide more flexibility than allotments for such therapeutic or social uses. The wider green space running through the site supports community activities, and while the kitchenette is a bonus, such facilities also make the garden more attractive to partners like the NHS.

2.33 There are also examples within Greater Cambridgeshire of community gardens offering specialist facilities. For example, the Red2Green community garden that has

been provided next to Bottisham Community College is accessible for people with learning disabilities with a range of ability levels and support needs. The garden promotes growing fruit and vegetables, healthy eating and learning new skills.

Examples of good and innovative practice in community garden and orchard provision

2.34 Marmalade Lane in north Cambridge (case study 9 in **Appendix B**) is a 42-home development which has been designed around a large shared garden for play, socialising and food growing. The shared gardens include native planting and biodiversity, along with some fruit trees. The community has added a composting area for the vegetable garden, supporting circularity. The fruit and vegetables grown in the community garden are used to make shared meals for the community. Importantly, future residents were involved in the design of the scheme.

2.35 Wakelyns Farm in Suffolk is internationally recognised as a pioneer of silvoarable agroforestry. Silvoarable systems deliberately intercrop orchard trees and arable crops for productivity, resilience, and biodiversity. At Wakelyns, trees are planted in north–south rows, with arable and horticultural crops grown between tree rows.

2.36 Forest farming principles also represent an opportunity to diversify orchards, focusing on cultivating high-value crops under an established tree canopy. In orchards, this means treating the orchard as a managed ‘forest’ with multiple productive layers.

Other food growing spaces

Recent experience of alternative food growing provision in Greater Cambridge and beyond

2.37 Beyond formalised food growing spaces such as allotments, community gardens and community orchards, there are several examples of alternative solutions and spaces across Greater Cambridge and beyond.

Informal spaces in smaller developments

2.38 Smaller developments present opportunities to incorporate food growing space where there is insufficient land to provide allotments. The Fanshawe Road

development being delivered by Cambridge Investment Partnership (CIP) will provide 84 new homes, including 45 council homes, to replace existing social housing. Community benefits have been factored into the design of the scheme, including a green corridor connecting Fanshawe Road to Coleridge Recreation Ground, with community food growing planters provided.

Health-related growing spaces

2.39 The potential benefits of food growing spaces link strongly to health and wellbeing outcomes. Darwin Nurseries is a 3-hectare site owned and operated by the NHS. It is a horticultural project with a farm shop that supports adults with learning disabilities and mental health challenges to develop skills, build independence, and gain the confidence to play an active role in their community. It offers a wide range of activities for co-workers, from caring for animals to engaging in horticulture, farming, and conservation projects. Through therapeutic horticulture, co-workers of all ages and abilities can build social and practical skills, while also boosting mental wellbeing by giving purpose, goals, confidence, and opportunities to feel connected rather than isolated.

2.40 Similarly, the Lambeth GP Food Co-op in Lambeth, London (case study 3 in **Appendix B**) is a community-led initiative to promote health recovery through gardening. Patients are referred to the gardening project by their GPs or directed towards the programme through diabetes clinics. Activities are led by nurses with expertise in food growing.

Roof gardens

2.41 Roof gardens can make productive use of unused roof space, allowing residents and organisations to grow vegetables, herbs, fruits and even small fruit trees in containers or raised beds. Their height gives excellent sunlight exposure, and they can support lightweight growing systems such as modular planters, green roofs with edible planting zones, and hydroponics. Rooftop growing also helps reduce food miles, supports biodiversity, improves insulation for buildings, and creates accessible spaces for community involvement where ground-level land is limited.

2.42 However, while they are often more accessible than traditional allotments, as well as acting as landmarks of pride for local people, rooftop gardens are currently uncommon. This is due to difficulties in obtaining planning permission, often due to practical issues relating to their ongoing maintenance.

2.43 A successful international example of a rooftop garden is the Brooklyn Grange Rooftop Farm in New York City, which spans over 4,000m² across an 11-storey building. Its irrigation system incorporates a drainage layer beneath the soil, supporting effective rainwater harvesting.

2.44 There are also opportunities to integrate community growing spaces into commercial developments. The Food from the Sky community growing project on top of Thornton's Budgens supermarket in Crouch End, North London, produces organic vegetables, fruit, mushrooms and herbs. The project also provides an educational and training resource promoting food growing, biodiversity, and sustainable living while addressing food security and resilience.

2.45 At Printworks in Manchester, the roof garden features a wildflower meadow, orchard and a herb garden. This carefully designed urban green space sits atop a major entertainment complex in the city centre.

Edible landscapes

2.46 Edible landscapes can incorporate food growing opportunities into garden or urban landscape design, integrating fruits, vegetables, herbs, and edible flowers into gardens, parks, and public spaces. Examples of edible landscape solutions include fruit trees instead of shade trees, berry hedges instead of shrubs, or herb-filled borders instead of decorative plants. An example of this is the Alberta Fruit Commons in Walworth, London (case study 8 in **Appendix B**). The aim was to revive a housing estate's original planting from the 1950s which included fruit and nut trees. New trees and fruiting bushes have been planted across a number of garden spaces on the estate. This has enabled monthly garden sessions and annual events to enhance community cohesion.

Repurposed urban spaces

2.47 Opportunities also exist to repurpose existing spaces to accommodate growing spaces. For example, where existing city-owned recreational spaces are considered to provide excess open space, a portion of the site could be repurposed for food growing. Examples of reused urban space include Edible Eastside in Birmingham, where a former petrol station was converted into a 0.1-hectare 'pop-up' edible park, utilising temporary containers and raised beds.

Other examples of good and innovative practice in alternative food growing provision

2.48 Growing does not have to be outdoors. A project at St Anne's House in Bristol (case study 4 in **Appendix B**) taught people about hydroponics and how they can grow a variety of plants indoors all year round. Also, the Growing Underground project in Clapham, London (case study 11 in **Appendix B**) is a subterranean farm which grew herbs and micro plants utilising hydroponics and LED lights. Whilst the operation closed in 2023, it is another example of what may be possible in locations where there is no available land.

2.49 Growing outdoors does not need cultivated ground. Not only can growing be achieved in raised beds and planters, but large pots and similar can be used for growing. The Postcode Gardener scheme (case study 5 in **Appendix B**) identified places by postcode across the country that are lacking in green space or subject to urban heating and air pollution. Expert gardeners then went to those communities and helped them to grow flowers and edible plants along streets, front gardens and car parks. This has extended to more traditional types of growing space, including a community garden and a mini orchard.

2.50 Existing structures can also be adapted or re-purposed to support growing, particularly where space is limited in high-density developments. Crate to Plate farms at Elephant Park, London, generates over five tonnes of fresh produce each year. Crops are grown within repurposed shipping containers using hydroponic systems, where plants are cultivated in nutrient-rich water rather than soil. Vertical growing techniques maximise productivity within a compact footprint, with each container delivering yields equivalent to more than an acre of conventional farmland while using up to 95% less water. Produce is harvested on site and distributed locally to homes, restaurants and cafés, reducing food miles and supporting a resilient urban food system.

2.51 For more detail, see the report in **Appendix B**.

Chapter 3

Delivering the Emerging Local Plan requirements

3.1 The understanding of current provision of food growing spaces in Greater Cambridge needs to be framed within the context of what new provision is required to support the growth in the Emerging Local Plan.

Site allocation typologies

3.2 The Emerging Local Plan proposes 54 site allocations that cover a mix of residential, employment and institutional uses, e.g. healthcare. As the assessment of existing provision covered in Chapter 2 shows, there is the potential for food growing space to provide benefits for workers at employment sites and as part of green social prescribing in healthcare settings. Clearly not all employment spaces and institutional uses are suitable for food growing, therefore judgements have been made in each case as to their realistic potential. All site allocations proposing some residential use have been included.

3.3 Given the number and range of site allocations and the need to establish a common set of principles for addressing provision of food growing space in the emerging Local Plan, it is important to develop a series of site typologies. This also needs to recognise that windfall development will also bring forward sites at densities different to the site allocations. Based on their size and, where possible to calculate, the expected density of development, the following site typologies have been established (**Table 3.1**):

Table 3.1: Site typologies

Site typology (site size, density)	Size (hectares)	Typical density (dwellings per hectare)
Very large, very high density	>5	>150
Very large, high density	>5	75 - 150
Very large, medium density	>5	50 - 74
Very large, low density	>5	<50
Large, very high density	>2 - 5	>150
Large, high density	>2 - 5	75 - 150

Site typology (site size, density)	Size (hectares)	Typical density (dwellings per hectare)
Large, medium density	>2 - 5	50 - 74
Large, low density	>2 - 5	<50
Medium, very high density	1 - 2	>150
Medium high density	1 - 2	75 - 150
Medium, medium density	1 - 2	50 - 74
Medium, low density	1 - 2	<50
Small, very high density	0.5 – 1	>150
Small, high density	0.5 – 1	75 - 150
Small, medium density	0.5 – 1	50 - 74
Small, low density	0.5 – 1	<50
Very small, very high density	<0.5	>150
Very small, high density	<0.5	75 - 150
Very small, medium density	<0.5	50 - 74
Very small, low density	<0.5	<50
Mixed use with residential	Any	N/a
Non-residential use	Any	N/a

3.4 The detailed assessment of each site is shown in **Appendix D**. For many of the sites the nature of the uses proposed meant it was not possible to determine a density. In these cases, the typology was derived from the information about the size of site, quantum of development and other relevant information in the policy or supporting text. A map showing the distribution of the site allocations by typology is shown in **Figure 1.3** in **Appendix A** (see separate report).

3.5 A number of these site typologies do not apply directly to any of the site allocations. However, it is expected that over the plan period there will be a significant number of windfalls ranging in size and density. The full set of typologies reflects this.

Requirements for provision of food growing space in the Emerging Local Plan

3.6 As noted in Chapter 1, Policy BG/EO in the Emerging (Regulation 18) Local Plan required major residential development to deliver food growing space to a standard of 0.4ha/1,000 population. This Food Growing Study is intended to inform the

refinement of that policy that will be included in the Regulation 19 version of the Emerging Local Plan.

3.7 Table 3.2 shows the calculation of the area of land required for food growing for each of the site allocations. This shows that there would be a total of 68 hectares of land required, with over 40 hectares of this required during the plan period.

3.8 Within the Cambridge urban area, the total requirement is 2.19 hectares, although 1.12 hectares of this is accounted for by North East Cambridge.

Table 3.2: Area of land required for food growing, by site

Local Plan ref.	Site name	Typology	No. of dwgs	Pop. in plan period	Pop. post-plan period	Space requirement in plan period (ha)	Space requirement post-plan period (ha)	Total space requirement (ha)
S/NEC	North East Cambridge	Very large high density	1,365	1,363	1,435	0.55	0.57	1.12
S/C/SMS	Garages between 20 St. Matthews Street and Blue Moon Public House, Cambridge	Very small, high density	12	29	-	0.01	-	0.01
S/C/HTR	137-143 Histon Road	Medium, medium density	100	240	-	0.10	-	0.10
S/C/HGH	Henry Giles House, 73-79 Chesterton Road	Small, high density	50	120	-	0.05	-	0.05
S/C/HRC	Horizon Resource Centre, 285 Coldham's Lane	Small, medium density	40	96	-	0.04	-	0.04
S/C/PDC	Cambridge Professional Development Centre, Foster Road	Medium, low density	40	96	-	0.04	-	0.04
S/C/PPS	Police Station, Parkside	Very small, high density	50	120	-	0.05	-	0.05
S/C/NCA	North Cambridge Academy, 108, Arbury Road	Very large, medium density	150	360	-	0.14	-	0.14

Local Plan ref.	Site name	Typology	No. of dwgs	Pop. in plan period	Pop. post-plan period	Space requirement in plan period (ha)	Space requirement post-plan period (ha)	Total space requirement (ha)
S/C/ER	1-99 Ekin Road and 1-8 Ekin Walk	Large, medium density	26	62	-	0.02	-	0.02
S/C/DR:	2-28 Davy Road and Garage Blocks	Medium, medium density	48	115	-	0.05	-	0.05
S/C/HPC	1-78 Hanover Court, 1-49 Princess Court and Garage at Newtown Garages	Small, very high density	37	89	-	0.04	-	0.04
S/C/GER	Former Garage Block, East Road	Very small, very high density	40	96	-	0.04	-	0.04
S/C/SH	1 – 33 Stanton House, Christchurch Street	Very small, high density	-5	-12	-	0.00	-	0.00
S/C/BRN	Land at Barnwell Road and Newmarket Road	Medium, high density	154	370	-	0.15	-	0.15
S/C/TRP	Travis Perkins, Devonshire Road	Medium, medium density	70	168	-	0.07	-	0.07
S/C/CJ	Cambridge Junction and Cambridge Leisure, Hills Road	Large, medium density	100	240	-	0.10	-	0.10
S/C/CLT	Clifton Road Area	Very large, medium density	200	480	-	0.19	-	0.19

Local Plan ref.	Site name	Typology	No. of dwgs	Pop. in plan period	Pop. post-plan period	Space requirement in plan period (ha)	Space requirement post-plan period (ha)	Total space requirement (ha)
S/CE	Cambridge East	Very large, medium density	8,000	10,665	10,935	4.27	4.37	8.64
S/CBC	Cambridge Biomedical Campus (including Addenbrooke's Hospital)	Very large, medium density	1,000	1,800	-	0.72	-	0.72
S/ED	Eddington	Very large, medium density	5,500	9,900	-	3.96	-	3.96
S/HHR	Land between Huntingdon Road and Histon Road (Darwin Green), Cambridge	Very large, medium density	2,242	6,053	-	2.42	-	2.42
S/EOC/ NOW	Land north of Worts' Causeway	Large greenfield	200	520	-	0.21	-	0.21
S/EOC/ SWO	Land south of Worts' Causeway	Large greenfield	230	598	-	0.24	-	0.24
S/CBN	Cambourne North	Very large, medium density	13,000	7,268	29,783	2.91	11.91	14.82
S/GF	Land adjacent to A11 and A1307 at Grange Farm	Very large, medium density	6,000	7,268	9,833	2.91	3.93	6.84
S/NST	Northstowe New Town	Very large, medium density	10,180	17,783	4,218	7.11	1.69	8.80

Local Plan ref.	Site name	Typology	No. of dwgs	Pop. in plan period	Pop. post-plan period	Space requirement in plan period (ha)	Space requirement post-plan period (ha)	Total space requirement (ha)
S/WNT	Land north of Waterbeach	Very large, medium density	11,000	16,322	15,028	6.53	6.01	12.54
S/BA	Bourn Airfield New Village	Very large, medium density	3,500	9,975	-	3.99	-	3.99
S/WGC	Wellcome Genome Campus, Hinxton	Very large, medium density	1,500	4,275	-	1.71	-	1.71
S/BRC	Babraham Research Campus	Very large, medium density	120	312	-	0.12	-	0.12
S/RSC/MF	Land at Maarnford Farm, Hunts Road, Duxford	Medium, low density	60	156	-	0.06	-	0.06
S/RSC/BR	Land south of Babraham Road, Sawston	Large greenfield	280	728	-	0.29	-	0.29
S/RRA/ML	The Moor, Moor Lane, Melbourn	Medium, low density	20	52	-	0.02	-	0.02
S/RRA/H	Land at Highfields (phase 2), Caldecote	Large, low density	65	169	-	0.07	-	0.07
S/RRA/CR	Land to the west of Cambridge Road, Melbourn	Very large, medium density	120	312	-	0.12	-	0.12
S/RRA/FID	Fulbourn and Ida Darwin Hospitals	Very large, medium density	200	520	-	0.21	-	0.21

Local Plan ref.	Site name	Typology	No. of dwgs	Pop. in plan period	Pop. post-plan period	Space requirement in plan period (ha)	Space requirement post-plan period (ha)	Total space requirement (ha)
S/RRA/CRH	Land adjacent to Cambridge Road (A10) and Mill Lane, Hauxton	Very large, medium density	120	312	-	0.12	-	0.12
S/SHF	Land north of A1307, Bar Hill (Slate Hall Farm)	Very large, medium density	200	520	-	0.21	-	0.21
Total	-	-	66,014	99,540	71,232	39.82	28.49	68.31

3.9 Separating out the assessment above by site typology creates the following levels of need (**Table 3.3**):

Table 3.3: Area of land required for food growing, by site typology

Typology (site size and density)	Space requirement in plan period (ha)	Space requirement post-plan period (ha)	Total space requirement (ha)
Very large, very high density	0.00	0.00	0.00
Very large, high density	1.12	0.00	1.12
Very large, medium density	38.06	27.92	65.98
Very large, low density	0.00	0.00	0.00
Large, very high density	0.00	0.00	0.00
Large, high density	0.00	0.00	0.00
Large, medium density	0.12	0.00	0.12
Large, low density	0.07	0.00	0.07
Medium, very high density	0.00	0.00	0.00
Medium, high density	0.15	0.00	0.15
Medium, medium density	0.21	0.00	0.21
Medium, low density	0.12	0.00	0.12
Small, very high density	0.04	0.00	0.04
Small, high density	0.05	0.00	0.05
Small, medium density	0.04	0.00	0.04
Small, low density	0.00	0.00	0.00
Very small, very high density	0.04	0.00	0.04
Very small, high density	0.05	0.00	0.05
Very small, medium density	0.00	0.00	0.00
Very small, low density	0.00	0.00	0.00

3.10 **Table 3.3** shows that the vast majority of the need is required on very large, medium density sites. However, there are needs across most other site typologies which total 2.33 hectares. Whilst a comparatively small figure, this requirement would support the food growing needs of an additional population totalling over 5,800 people.

Chapter 4

Potential approaches to delivering food growing through the emerging Local Plan

4.1 The emerging Local Plan has the twin objectives of increasing and improving the network of green spaces and improving equality of access and opportunities for people to lead healthier and happier lives. It envisages that food growing spaces are part of achieving those objectives. Whilst the plan will have standards for food growing provision, the previous chapters of this report have highlighted that this is likely to be challenging to achieve in many parts of the plan area. However, the range of types of food growing space which can be delivered offer the best opportunity to bridge that gap in capacity.

4.2 This chapter assesses how and whether the food growing requirements of each site allocation can be met, either on- or off-site. This reflects the potential to meet the standard for food growing space provision of 0.4ha/1,000 population in Policy BG/EO and the requirements this generates (as presented in **Table 3.2**). It then uses this information and the good practice review in Chapter 2 to establish the types of food growing space that should be sought, by site typology. This will then inform the amendments to Policy BG/EO that will be part of the Regulation 19 Emerging Local Plan relating to the incorporation of a more flexible approach to the type of food growing space provided by development. Alongside this, it considers the cost of providing different types of space.

Assessment of food growing potential of emerging site allocations

4.3 Following the establishment of the site typologies, it was then possible to assess the potential of each specific site allocation to deliver food growing opportunities and consider the potential to meet the food growing standard.

4.4 The approach taken was to review aerial imagery of draft site allocations along with the maps of sites and existing allotments/green spaces in the locality, presented in Chapter 2. The assessment considered the potential to accommodate the following food growing opportunities, both on-site and off-site:

- Allotments
- Community growing spaces (community gardens, orchards or farms)
- Other (informal growing spaces, roof gardens and edible landscaping)

4.5 Based on the physical potential of the site and the requirements of the site allocation in the Emerging Local Plan, opportunities to deliver food growing on-site and off-site were given a three-point rating, equivalent to red-amber-green:

	There is little or no potential to deliver food growing either on- or off-site, or the nature of the use does not support food growing opportunities. The required area of food growing space to meet draft standard will not be achieved.
	There are opportunities to deliver food growing on- or off-site but these are limited, e.g. edible landscaping and/or limited informal food growing only, so the draft standard is unlikely to be met in full.
	There are good opportunities to deliver a significant area and/or range of types of food growing space on-site to meet the draft standard.

4.6 The assessment of off-site opportunities considered a range of existing green spaces within a 5-minute walk of the site. This was considered to represent the furthest distance that occupiers of a site would be likely to travel to access food growing opportunities. These green spaces consisted of:

- Allotments
- Community growing spaces (community gardens or community orchards)
- Local green spaces
- Country parks and gardens
- Parks and gardens
- Recreation grounds
- Semi-natural green spaces
- Amenity green spaces
- Playing fields (including school playing fields)
- Play spaces

Cambridge urban area

4.7 The assessment of potential site allocations in the Cambridge urban area is shown in **Table 4.1**. The more detailed assessment of specific on-site and off-site opportunities from which the overall evaluation was derived is shown in **Appendix E**.

Table 4.1: Food growing opportunities - Cambridge urban area

Local Plan ref.	Site name	Typology	Evaluation
S/NEC	North East Cambridge	Very large, high density	Strong potential to deliver food growing on-site to meet the draft standard through allotments and community gardens as well as more informal food growing opportunities, including edible landscaping.
S/C/SMS	Garages between 20 St. Matthews Street and Blue Moon Public House, Cambridge	Very small, high density	Limited potential to deliver food growing on-site through a roof garden but some possible opportunities off-site on amenity grassland.
S/C/HTR	137-143 Histon Road	Medium, medium density	Some potential to deliver informal growing on-site. Potential to deliver off-site on amenity grassland at Histon Road Recreation Ground.
S/C/HGH	Henry Giles House, 73-79 Chesterton Road	Small, high density	Potential to deliver food growing on-site via edible landscaping and roof gardens. Potential to deliver off-site on amenity grassland at Alexandra Gardens.
S/C/HRC	Horizon Resource Centre, 285 Coldham's Lane	Small, medium density	Limited opportunity to deliver food growing on-site. Some limited off-site opportunities exist at Nuttings Road.
S/C/PDC	Cambridge Professional Development	Medium, low density	There is likely enough open space on site to provide for a community garden, although this is dependent

Local Plan ref.	Site name	Typology	Evaluation
	Centre, Foster Road		on the design. There is potential for some off-site provision of informal growing spaces at Fawcett Primary School, although this would be limited by the education use.
S/C/PPS	Police Station, Parkside	Very small, high density	Some opportunity to deliver food growing on-site via edible landscaping and roof gardens. Some opportunity to deliver off-site informal food growing space at nearby green/open spaces.
S/C/NCA	North Cambridge Academy, 108, Arbury Road	Very large, medium density	There are limited opportunities on-site (a roof garden), although there are some options for off-site provision which could be explored.
S/C/ER	1-99 Ekin Road and 1-8 Ekin Walk	Large, medium density	Open space in the west of the site can likely provide informal growing space. A number of off-site opportunities exist at open spaces nearby.
S/C/DR:	2-28 Davy Road and Garage Blocks	Medium, medium density	Open space in the west of the site can likely provide informal growing space. A number of off-site opportunities exist at open spaces nearby.
S/C/HPC	1-78 Hanover Court, 1-49 Princess Court and Garage at Newtown Garages	Small, very high density	Potential to deliver food growing on-site via edible landscaping and roof gardens. Potential to deliver food growing at surrounding off-site locations, however all are at least a 5-minute walk from the site.
S/C/GER	Former Garage Block, East Road	Very small, very high density	Potential to deliver food growing on-site via edible landscaping and roof gardens. Potential to deliver some limited food growing at surrounding off-site locations.

Local Plan ref.	Site name	Typology	Evaluation
S/C/SH	1 – 33 Stanton House, Christchurch Street	Very small, high density	Some potential to deliver food growing on-site, solely via roof gardens. Significant space to deliver food growing at Midsummer Common but nature of the site may prevent provision.
S/C/BRN	Land at Barnwell Road and Newmarket Road	Medium, high density	Some potential to deliver food growing on-site, solely via roof gardens. Some limited potential to deliver food growing off-site.
S/C/TRP	Travis Perkins, Devonshire Road	Medium, medium density	Potential to deliver food growing on-site through informal growing spaces and edible landscaping. Options for nearby off-site provision are extremely limited.
S/C/OPK	Parcel Com4, Orchard Park	Non-residential uses	Some potential to deliver food growing on-site, solely via roof gardens. Potential to deliver some limited food growing at surrounding off-site locations.
S/C/BFS	Brookfields	Non-residential uses	Potential to deliver food growing on site through edible landscaping. There are some limited options for nearby off-site provision.
S/C/CJ	Cambridge Junction and Cambridge Leisure, Hills Road	Large, medium density	The nature of the uses proposes limits the suitability of food growing space provision. Edible landscaping is likely to be possible. There are some limited options for nearby off-site provision.
S/C/CLT	Clifton Road Area	Large brownfield/urban	Potential to deliver food growing on-site through informal growing spaces and edible landscaping. Options for nearby off-site provision are limited.

Local Plan ref.	Site name	Typology	Evaluation
S/C/BJH	Betjeman House, Hills Road	Non-residential uses	Potential to deliver food growing on site through edible landscaping. There are some limited options for nearby off-site provision.
S/C/OPM	Old Press/Mill Lane	Non-residential uses	Informal growing spaces and edible landscaping likely to be capable of being provided on-site. There are a number of options for nearby off-site provision, but these are likely to be unsuitable due to access and other issues relating to use of university grounds.
S/C/NMD	New Museums, Downing Street	Non-residential uses	The nature of the use and its location do not support food growing activities, on- or off-site.

4.8 Only one of the sites in the Cambridge urban area – North East Cambridge, a major urban extension – has the potential to meet the food growing standard on-site. However, almost all of the other sites have some potential to deliver food growing. Often however this will be in the form of informal growing spaces or edible landscaping on-site; there is no potential on these sites for more formal growing provision in the form of allotments or community gardens. Off-site, many of the sites have opportunities in the immediate locality which could be explored for food growing. In a number of cases though, these spaces are well-known public open spaces which, whilst sizeable, may be less suitable for food growing.

Edge of Cambridge

4.9 The assessment of potential site allocations on the edge of Cambridge is shown in **Table 4.1**. The more detailed assessment of specific on-site and off-site opportunities from which the overall evaluation was derived is shown in **Appendix E**.

Table 4.2: Food growing opportunities - Edge of Cambridge

Local Plan ref.	Site name	Typology	Evaluation
S/CE	Cambridge East	Very large, medium density	Strong potential to deliver food growing on-site to meet the draft standard through allotments and community gardens as well as more informal food growing opportunities, including edible landscaping.
S/CBC	Cambridge Biomedical Campus (including Addenbrooke's Hospital)	Very large, medium density	Strong potential to deliver food growing on-site to meet the draft standard through allotments and community gardens as well as more informal food growing opportunities, including edible landscaping.
S/ED	Eddington	Very large, medium density	Strong potential to deliver food growing on-site to meet the draft standard through allotments and community gardens as well as more informal food growing opportunities, including edible landscaping.
S/WC	West Cambridge	Very large, medium density	Potential to deliver food growing on-site through a community garden and edible landscaping. The degree to which this is appropriate for a major academic and employment-led development will depend on the approach taken any supporting masterplanning.
S/HHR	Land between Huntingdon Road and Histon Road (Darwin Green), Cambridge	Very large, medium density	Strong potential to deliver food growing on-site to meet the draft standard through allotments and community gardens as well as more informal food growing opportunities, including edible landscaping.
S/EOC/NOW	Land north of Worts' Causeway	Very large, medium density	Potential to deliver food growing on-site through a community garden, informal growing spaces and edible

Local Plan ref.	Site name	Typology	Evaluation
			landscaping. Options for nearby off-site provision are limited.
S/EOC/SWO	Land south of Worts' Causeway	Very large, medium density	Potential to deliver food growing on-site through a community garden, informal growing spaces and edible landscaping. There are no options for nearby off-site provision.
S/EOC/BS	Bell School, Babraham Road	Non-residential uses	There is no potential to deliver food growing space on-site. There are potential options for nearby off-site provision.
S/EOC/FRE	Fulbourn Road East	Non-residential uses	The nature of the use and its location do not support food growing activities, on- or off-site.

4.10 Most of the sites on the edge of Cambridge have good potential to deliver food growing space and to meet, or get close to meeting, the draft food growing space standard. This is mainly due to their size, with a number being in the very large, medium density typology. A number of these sites are not solely residential allocations, so there is more flexibility in considering the level of provision. However, the nature of the mix of uses means that provision of food growing spaces could have benefits for workers as well as residents.

New settlements

4.11 The assessment of potential new settlement site allocations in Greater Cambridge is shown in **Table 4.3**. The more detailed assessment of specific on-site and off-site opportunities from which the overall evaluation was derived is shown in **Appendix E**.

Table 4.3: Food growing opportunities - New settlements

Local Plan ref.	Site name	Typology	Evaluation
S/CBN	Cambourne North	Very large,	Strong potential to deliver food growing on-site to meet the draft standard through allotments and community gardens as well as more

Local Plan ref.	Site name	Typology	Evaluation
		medium density	informal food growing opportunities, including edible landscaping.
S/GF	Land adjacent to A11 and A1307 at Grange Farm	Very large, medium density	Strong potential to deliver food growing on-site to meet the draft standard through allotments and community gardens as well as more informal food growing opportunities, including edible landscaping.
S/NST	Northstowe New Town	Very large, medium density	Strong potential to deliver food growing on-site to meet the draft standard through allotments and community gardens as well as more informal food growing opportunities, including edible landscaping.
S/WNT	Land north of Waterbeach	Very large, medium density	Strong potential to deliver food growing on-site to meet the draft standard through allotments and community gardens as well as more informal food growing opportunities, including edible landscaping.
S/BA	Bourn Airfield New Village	Very large, medium density	Strong potential to deliver food growing on-site to meet the draft standard through allotments and community gardens as well as more informal food growing opportunities, including edible landscaping.

4.12 By their nature as new settlements (in the ‘very large, medium density’ typology), all of these site allocations have sufficient space to provide allotments and/or community growing spaces on-site. Indeed, all are clearly able to meet the draft standard of 0.4ha/1,000 population.

4.13 Irrespective of the layout of the new settlement allocations, these sites will also create multiple opportunities for informal growing spaces and edible landscaping which could be reflected in the requirements of the policies.

Rural southern cluster

4.14 The assessment of potential site allocations in the rural southern cluster is shown in **Table 4.4**. The more detailed assessment of specific on-site and off-site opportunities from which the overall evaluation was derived is shown in **Appendix E**.

Table 4.4: Food growing opportunities - Rural southern cluster

Local Plan ref.	Site name	Typology	Evaluation
S/WGC	Wellcome Genome Campus, Hinxton	Very large, medium density	Good potential to deliver food growing on-site through allotments and community gardens as well as more informal food growing opportunities such as edible landscaping.
S/BRC	Babraham Research Campus	Very large, medium density	Good potential to deliver food growing on-site in the form of a community garden, possibly on existing designated informal open spaces, as well as edible landscaping.
S/RSC/MF	Land at Maarnford Farm, Hunts Road, Duxford	Medium, low density	Potential to deliver edible landscaping only on-site. There are possible small scale, off-site food growing opportunities in the immediate vicinity on neighbouring green spaces.
S/RSC/BR	Land south of Babraham Road, Sawston	Very large, medium density	Potential to deliver food growing on-site, either with a small allotment or a community garden. Along the site's eastern and northern boundary there is the potential to deliver edible landscaping.
S/RSC/FSS	Former Spicers Site, Sawston Business Park, Sawston	Non-residential uses	Some potential to deliver food growing on-site, mostly due to the opportunity to provide a community garden that could effectively address the requirement for employee amenities to be provided.
S/RSC/CC	Comfort Café, Fourwentways, Little Abington	Non-residential uses	Potential to deliver edible landscaping only on-site. The nature of the use

Local Plan ref.	Site name	Typology	Evaluation
			does not support off-site food growing activities.

4.15 There are six site allocations proposed within the rural southern cluster. Three are very large, medium density sites and, by virtue of their size, should be capable of supporting food growing to either meet the required standard or, at very least, deliver a range of food growing opportunities on site. The mixed nature of proposed allocations at the Wellcome Genome Campus in Hinxton (S/WGC) and the Babraham Research Campus (S/BRC) means that there is the opportunity to provide spaces which can serve the needs of residents and workers alike.

4.16 There are two sites where the overall assessment is amber – land at Maarnford Farm, Hunts Road, Duxford (S/RSC/MF) and Comfort Café, Fourwentways, Little Abington (S/RSC/CC). Whilst the former is a medium, low density site it is quite small (1.56 hectares), meaning there is likely to be little space to deliver on-site food growing provision, either in the form of an allotment or a community growing space. Moreover, the scale of development is unlikely to create sufficient critical mass for new provision either. The latter site is an employment site where the use coupled with the limited opportunities for food growing mean that only edible landscaping is likely to be appropriate. By contrast, the other employment site – the former Spicers site, Sawston Business Park (S/RSC/FSS) – is of a scale where an on-site community growing space as well as other informal opportunities could be delivered. The extent to which this would be appropriate will depend on the mix of employment uses.

4.17 Overall, the emerging site allocations in the rural southern cluster mostly provide good opportunities for on-site food growing. The opportunities to enhance off-site provision to support the residential uses are, by virtue of their location, limited. Only one site – land at Maarnford Farm – has local potential, with these opportunities being reasonable and worthy of further exploration.

Rest of rural area

4.18 The assessment of potential site allocations in the rest of the rural area is shown in **Table 4.5**. The more detailed assessment of specific on-site and off-site opportunities from which the overall evaluation was derived is shown in **Appendix E**.

Table 4.5: Food growing opportunities - Rest of rural area

Local Plan ref.	Site name	Typology	Evaluation
S/RRA/ML	The Moor, Moor Lane, Melbourn	Medium, low density	Potential to deliver some limited food growing on site through informal growing and edible landscaping. Possible informal growing opportunities off-site but no allotment capacity without expansion. However, the requirement for only 20 dwellings means that informal on-site growing opportunities are likely to be sufficient to meet the draft standard.
S/RRA/H	Land at Highfields (phase 2), Caldecote	Large, low density	Potential to deliver food growing on site through allotment or community garden provision, as well as edible landscaping along site boundary.
S/RRA/CR	Land to the west of Cambridge Road, Melbourn	Non-residential uses	Potential to deliver some food growing on site through a community garden and edible landscaping. Possible informal growing opportunities off-site but no allotment capacity without expansion.
S/RRA/FID	Fulbourn and Ida Darwin Hospitals	Non-residential uses	Reasonable potential to deliver food growing on site, possibly as part of social prescribing linked with the healthcare services.
S/RRA/SCS	Land to the south of Cambridge Services, A14	Non-residential uses	The nature of the use and its location do not support food growing activities, on- or off-site.
S/RRA/BBP	Land at Buckingway Business Park, Swavesey	Non-residential uses	Potential to deliver food growing on site through edible landscaping. The nature of the use does not support off-site food growing activities.
S/RRA/SNR	Land to the north of St Neots Road, Dry Drayton	Non-residential uses	Potential to deliver food growing on site through edible landscaping. The nature of the use does not support off-site food growing activities.

Local Plan ref.	Site name	Typology	Evaluation
S/RRA/OHD	Old Highways Depot, Twenty Pence Road, Cottenham	Non-residential uses	Potential to deliver food growing on site through edible landscaping. The nature of the use does not support off-site food growing activities.
S/RRA/NW	Norman Way, Over	Non-residential uses	Potential to deliver food growing on site through edible landscaping. The nature of the use does not support off-site food growing activities.
S/RRA/CRH	Land adjacent to Cambridge Road (A10) and Mill Lane, Hauxton	Very large, medium density	Potential to deliver food growing on site through edible landscaping. The nature of the use does not support off-site food growing activities.
S/SHF	Land north of A1307, Bar Hill (Slate Hall Farm)	Very large, medium density	Potential to deliver food growth on-site through a community garden and edible landscaping. The degree to which this is appropriate for a major employment-led development will depend on the approach taken in the required masterplan.
S/RRA/CH	Land at Compass House, Chivers Way, Histon and Impington	Non-residential uses	Potential to deliver edible landscaping along site boundary or possibly a roof garden.

4.19 There are 12 site allocations proposed within the rest of the rural area. Of these, five have been given an overall rating of green, with only one site having a red rating.

4.20 Two very large sites – land west of Cambridge Road, Melbourn (S/RRA/CR) and the Fulbourn and Ida Darwin Hospitals (S/RRA/FID) – both have good potential to support food growing. The former would best be provided as a community growing space which could be shared between residents and workers. The latter could provide either allotments or a community growing space, with a community growing space more likely given the mix of residential and healthcare uses. However, specialist allotment provision may be suitable for green social prescribing; the emerging site allocation refers to provision of new mental health facilities and allotment spaces have been provided elsewhere to help support people with such needs.

4.21 The large, low density site, land at Highfields (phase 2), Caldecote (S/RRA/H), has a green rating, reflecting good potential. This is due to the comparatively low density of development and the importance of ensuring no unacceptable adverse impacts on landscape character, creating a significant opportunity for food growing as part of the open space provision. By contrast, the medium, low density site, Moor, Moor Lane, Melbourn (S/RRA/ML), is smaller with a significant amount of the land being likely to be required to strengthen the existing landscape buffer (doubling the width of the boundaries on two sides). This is likely to limit on-site opportunities for informal food growing, although this could be accommodated on an area of the site which is unsuitable to built development due to the risk of flooding. Coupled with the limited potential of nearby off-site spaces, the site has an overall rating of amber.

4.22 Of the eight non-residential uses (mostly employment), the nature and location of the proposed uses do not support food growing opportunities, e.g. rural light industrial or warehousing uses. Only one non-residential site has been given a green rating. The policy for land north of A1307, Bar Hill (S/SHF) specifically refers to supporting amenities to meet the needs of staff, with the supporting information requiring an exemplar proposal set within a mature landscape that supports the health and well-being of those working at the site. The scale of the site creates the opportunity to deliver on-site food growing spaces, hence the green rating.

4.23 Overall, the emerging site allocations with residential uses in the rural area have good potential for on-site food growing provision. However, most allocations are employment-led, meaning that with the odd exception, on-site food provision is not likely to be a supporting use which can easily be justified.

Summary

4.24 Figure 1.4 in Appendix A (see separate report) summarises the overall RAG rating for each of the sites.

4.25 Table 4.6 summarises the extent to which each typology of site allocation can meet the draft food growing standard in full. This shows that only the very large sites will definitely be able to meet this standard.

Table 4.6: Potential of site allocations to meet the food growing standard, by typology

Typology	Potential to meet standard
Very large, high density	Yes (but only one site in typology)
Very large, medium density	Yes, although 2 of 19 sites cannot

Typology	Potential to meet standard
Large, medium density	No (but only 2 sites in typology)
Large, low density	Yes (but only one site in typology)
Medium, high density	No (but only one site in typology)
Medium, medium density	No (but only 3 sites in typology)
Medium, low density	Variable potential (only 3 sites in typology)
Small, very high density	No (but only one site in typology)
Small, high density	No (but only one site in typology)
Small, medium density	No (but only one site in typology)
Very small, very high density	No (but only one site in typology)
Very small, high density	No (but only 3 sites in typology)
Non-residential uses	Potentially – review on a case-by-case basis

4.26 There are a number of medium sized sites proposed for allocation and whilst the potential to meet the draft standard in full on these sites is limited, many would be able to provide for the needs of the new community in full if alternative provision were to be made. In particular, community gardens are a much more space-efficient way of creating places for growing which can also enhance the health and wellbeing of its users. Similarly, but on a smaller scale, informal growing spaces can do the same.

4.27 In the urban setting there is limited prospect of the standard being met. However, there are significant opportunities for informal growing spaces and some opportunities for roof gardens which can provide efficient use of small spaces on sites which maximises the opportunities for residents to engage in food growing. The provision of roof gardens is dependent on the design of buildings (e.g. whether they incorporate roof access and can support the load) rather than their layout.

4.28 There are some theoretical opportunities for off-site provision to plug shortfalls in the potential for on-site provision. This is particularly the case in urban Cambridge where there are many different types of green space which could give over small areas to informal growing. Opportunities to extend existing allotments are very limited, particularly in the urban area. Such opportunities would clearly need significant further work to establish if they are possible.

Recommended types of food growing space to be sought by site typology

4.29 In light of the analysis above, it is possible to identify the types of food growing space which, where possible, should be sought for each of the different typologies of site. This is presented in **Table 4.7**.

4.30 The table shows that financial contributions would be sought in a number of cases where provision of an allotment or community growing space could not be achieved on site (and it is assumed that there is no or insufficient capacity at existing allotments nearby). However, contributions would not be sought on large brownfield/urban sites or on medium greenfield sites where provision of community growing spaces and other smaller, more informal growing spaces on site could be achieved. This recognises the potential for greater efficiency (in terms of the population supported) in such provision when compared with allotments.

4.31 The recommended approach in **Table 4.7** represents a framework for provision. It should not be taken that, for each typology, this is the suite of uses that should be required in all cases. The potential of each site should be considered on its merits, with off-site opportunities also brought into the scope of that assessment. What it does represent is a starting point for considering the types of food growing spaces that could be explored for different types of sites.

Table 4.7: Recommended types of food growing space by site typology

Size	Density	Typology	Type	Nearby opportunity to enhance provision?	Contribution to enhance local off-site provision?	Allotment on-site	Community growing space on-site	Informal growing space on-site	Roof garden on-site	Edible landscaping on-site
Very large: >5ha	Very high: >150dph High: 75-150dph	Very large, very high density Very large, high density	B/f or G/f	Yes	Yes***	No	No	Yes	Yes**	Yes**
Very large: >5ha	Medium: 50-74dph Low: <50dph	Very large, medium density Very large, low density	B/f or G/f	Yes	Yes***	No	No	Yes	No	Yes**
Very large: >5ha	Very high: >150dph High: 75-150dph	Very large, very high density Very large, high density	B/f	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes**	Yes**
Very large: >5ha	Medium: 50-74dph Low: <50dph	Very large, medium density Very large, low density	B/f	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes**
Very large: >5ha	Very high: >150dph High: 75-150dph	Very large, very high density Very large, high density	G/f	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes**	Yes**

Size	Density	Typology	Type	Nearby opportunity to enhance provision?	Contribution to enhance local off-site provision?	Allotment on-site	Community growing space on-site	Informal growing space on-site	Roof garden on-site	Edible landscaping on-site
Very large: >5ha	Medium: 50-74dph Low: <50dph	Very large, medium density Very large, low density	G/f	No	No	Yes****	Yes****	Yes	No	Yes**
Large: >2-5ha	Very high: >150dph High: 75-150dph	Large, very high density Large, high density	B/f	Yes	Yes***	No	No	No	Yes**	Yes**
Large: >2-5ha	Medium: 50-74dph Low: <50dph	Large, medium density Large, low density	B/f	Yes	Yes***	No	No	Yes	No	Yes**
Large: >2-5ha	Very high: >150dph High: 75-150dph	Large, very high density Large, high density	B/f	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes**	Yes**
Large: >2-5ha	Medium: 50-74dph Low: <50dph	Large, medium density Large, low density	B/f	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes**
Large: >2-5ha	Very high: >150dph	Large, very high density	G/f	Yes	Yes***	No	No	No	Yes**	Yes**

Size	Density	Typology	Type	Nearby opportunity to enhance provision?	Contribution to enhance local off-site provision?	Allotment on-site	Community growing space on-site	Informal growing space on-site	Roof garden on-site	Edible landscaping on-site
	High: 75-150dph	Large, high density								
Large: >2-5ha	Medium: 50-74dph Low: <50dph	Large, medium density Large, low density	G/f	Yes	Yes***	No	No	Yes**	No	Yes**
Large: >2-5ha	Very high: >150dph High: 75-150dph	Large, very high density Large, high density	G/f	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes**	Yes**
Large: >2-5ha	Medium: 50-74dph Low: <50dph	Large, medium density Large, low density	G/f	No	No	No	Yes**	Yes	No	Yes**
Medium: 1-2ha	Very high: >150dph High: 75-150dph	Medium, very high density Medium, high density Medium, medium density Medium, low density	B/f or G/f	Yes	Yes***	No	No	No	No	Yes**

Size	Density	Typology	Type	Nearby opportunity to enhance provision?	Contribution to enhance local off-site provision?	Allotment on-site	Community growing space on-site	Informal growing space on-site	Roof garden on-site	Edible landscaping on-site
Medium: 1-2ha	Very high: >150dph High: 75-150dph	Medium, very high density Medium, high density	B/f or G/f	No	No	No	No	Yes**	Yes**	Yes**
Medium: 1-2ha	Medium: 50-74dph Low: <50dph	Medium, medium density Medium, low density	B/f or G/f	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes**
Small: 0.5-1ha	Very high: >150dph	Small, very high density	B/f or G/f	Yes	Yes***	No	No	No	Yes**	Yes**
Small: 0.5-1ha	Very high: >150dph High: 75-150dph	Small, very high density Small, high density	B/f or G/f	No	No	No	No	Yes**	Yes**	Yes**
Small: 0.5-1ha	High: 75-150dph	Small, high density	B/f or G/f	Yes	Yes***	No	No	No	Yes**	Yes**
Small: 0.5-1ha	Medium: 50-74dph	Small, medium density	B/f or G/f	Yes	No*	No	No	Yes	No	Yes**
Small: 0.5-1ha	Medium: 50-74dph	Small, medium density	B/f or G/f	No	No*	No	No	Yes	No	Yes**
Small: 0.5-1ha	Low: <50dph	Small, low density	B/f or G/f	Yes or no	No*	No	No	No	No	Yes**

Size	Density	Typology	Type	Nearby opportunity to enhance provision?	Contribution to enhance local off-site provision?	Allotment on-site	Community growing space on-site	Informal growing space on-site	Roof garden on-site	Edible landscaping on-site
Very small: <0.5ha	Very high: >150dph	Very small, very high density	B/f or G/f	Yes or no	Yes***	No	No	No	Yes**	Yes**
Very small: <0.5ha	High: 75-150dph	Very small, high density	B/f or G/f	Yes or no	No*	No	No	No	Yes**	Yes**
Very small: <0.5ha	Medium: 50-74dph	Very small, low density	B/f or G/f	Yes or no	No*	No	No	Yes	No	Yes**
Very small: <0.5ha	Low: <50dph	Very small, low density	B/f or G/f	Yes or no	No*	No	No	No	No	Yes**

* provided there is no nearby opportunity

** if design of scheme/site enables provision

*** provided there is a nearby opportunity

**** either an allotment or a community growing space

Cost of provision of food growing space

4.32 Assigning costs to the provision of food growing spaces such that they can robustly be applied to each different type of provision is very challenging. Each site will have its own context and issues, be it the quality of the existing soil (and therefore the need to import soil improver/manure), access to water (which could be via access to a borehole, mains supply or through rainwater capture depending on geographical context and needs), local context (e.g. need for security), or simply its size.

4.33 However, for each type of food growing provision, there are certain needs which can be established. **Table 4.8** sets out those typical items needed for the different types of food growing space and whether they are essential, would be expected to have in that space, or just good to have.

Table 4.8: Food growing space requirements

Type of space Item	Allotment	Community garden or orchard	Informal growing space	Roof garden	Edible land-scaping
Paths	xxx	x	N/A	N/A	N/A
Accessible paths	xx	x	x	x	N/A
Security fencing	xx	xx	x	N/A	N/A
Storage sheds	x	xxx	x	x	N/A
Pest fencing	x	x	N/A	N/A	N/A
Water supply	xxx	xxx	N/A	N/A	N/A
Water distribution	xx	x	N/A	N/A	N/A
Toilet (composting)	xx	xx	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kitchenette	N/A	x	N/A	N/A	N/A
Raised beds	N/A	x	xx	xxx	N/A
Plant stock	N/A	xx	xx	xx	xxx
Growing medium*	x	x	xxx	xxx	N/A

x = **good to have**/need depends on local context

xx = would **expect to have** as part of a good quality offer

xxx = **essential** for all sites

* = compost or manure imported to create the potential to grow crops

4.34 For all types of provision with the exception of edible landscaping, there is a theoretical cost attached to the land given over to food growing. However, this can vary significantly depending on circumstances and it is assumed that for on-site provision this is included in the secondary site costs.

4.35 Therefore, the capital cost of providing food growing spaces relates to the specific items commonly required to create a working space. **Table 4.8** summarises these for each type of space and the degree to which they are needed. For new provision it should be assumed that all items which are essential or are expected should be costed in.

4.36 **Table 4.9** shows the typical costs of providing certain capital items. The primary source for the information was the applications made by allotment owners to the South Cambridgeshire Allotment Improvement Grant (AIG) initiative which ran in 2025 (see Chapter 2 for a summary).

Table 4.9: Costs of provision of capital items

Item	Cost	Commentary	Source of estimated cost
Paths	£5/metre	Assume woodchip laid on cardboard or weed proof matting	Online suppliers
Security fencing	£25/metre	Around perimeter of a site	Bar Hill Allotment Society AIG application
Storage sheds	£2,500	Cost to meet Secured by Design standard	Ickleton Allotment Association AIG application
Water supply	£5,000	For a mains water standpipe	Balsham Parish Council AIG application
Water distribution	£22/metre	To enable easy access to water across a site	Bar Hill Allotment Society AIG application
Toilet (composting)	£3,500	-	Ickleton Allotment Association AIG application
Raised beds	£250 each	Does depend on size although this does not tend to vary greatly	Duxford Parish Council AIG application

Item	Cost	Commentary	Source of estimated cost
Plant stock	£15/metre	Assume one tree whip per metre for landscaping	Online suppliers
Growing medium	£150/cubic metre	-	Online suppliers

4.37 The cost of maintenance of sites relates to the upkeep of communal areas, paths, water supply, fencing and any built structures (e.g. sheds). All allotment ploholders are expected to pay an annual charge. Based on the information provided as part of the AIG applications, the average annual charge for a plot is £30. Community gardens may ask for subscriptions depending on the model they adopt but all other types of food growing space are not expected to secure an income towards maintenance.

Assumed cost of provision of food growing spaces in Greater Cambridge

4.38 Below are the capital costs for the provision of each type of food growing space in Greater Cambridge, with the majority of these spaces expected on the site allocations in the emerging Local Plan. In each case the assumptions are listed and it is important to be aware that the size of individual sites will vary on a case-by-case basis.

Allotments

- Total area of 0.9 hectares (9,000sqm)
- Supporting a population of 2,250 (applying the 0.4ha/1,000 population standard), or approximately 800 dwellings
- 100 allotment plots at 80sqm per plot
- Paths between plots and a single, small communal area £5,000
- Composting toilet £3,500
- Security fencing (380m around perimeter of site) £9,500
- Water supply (connection to mains supply) £5,000
- Water distribution to two other points on allotment £2,000

■ Total	£25,000
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Community garden

■ Total area of 0.5 hectares (5,000sqm)	
■ Supporting a population greater than the equivalent allotment space	
■ Security fencing (280m around perimeter of site)	£7,000
■ Storage shed	£2,500
■ Water supply (connection to mains supply)	£5,000
■ Composting toilet	£3,500
■ Plant stock	£1,000
■ Total	£19,000

Informal growing space

■ Total area of 0.02 hectares (200sqm)	
■ Supporting small scale development	
■ 2 raised beds plus 1-2 'allotment' beds (not raised)	£500
■ Growing medium (2 cubic metres per raised bed)	£600
■ Plant stock	£500
■ Total	£1,600

Roof garden

■ Total area of 0.01 hectares (100sqm)	
■ Supporting suitable urban development	
■ 3 raised beds	£750
■ Growing medium (2 cubic metres per raised bed)	£900
■ Plant stock	£500

■ Total	£2,150
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Edible landscaping

■ Supporting all development where landscaping is required	
■ Total landscaping length of 100m	£1,500
■ Total	£1,500

Chapter 5

Recommended approach to food growing in the emerging Local Plan

5.1 The previous chapter established the realistic options for provision of food growing space for each site typology that the site allocations are grouped into. It was clear that the draft food growing standard of 0.4ha/1,000 population could only be met with any certainty on the largest sites.

5.2 Additionally, there is no clear minimum development population that can be robustly justified to require on-site food growing provision rather than contributions towards off-site provision. The appropriate scale of provision can vary greatly, with demand depending on a range of factors beyond population size, including demographics, accessibility, and the availability of nearby alternatives.

5.3 Moreover, whilst allotments are easy to measure on an individual plot basis, newer forms of food growing that are becoming increasingly popular are for shared activities. This is most obviously illustrated in community gardens and orchards where the community comes together to grow and share experiences. To measure the number of people a community garden of any particular size could serve would be an exercise in seeking to attain spurious accuracy. What is clear from the evidence is that community growing spaces and informal growing spaces are more space efficient than allotments in terms of the numbers of people they serve – a 0.5 hectare community garden will serve the food growing needs of more people than a 0.5 hectare allotment. Such provision may address the needs arising from development satisfactorily, but to understand this would require review of more examples over an extended period of time. Certainly, it would be important to ensure that the costs of management and maintenance of such spaces are adequately addressed. The limited examples and often unique evolution of these sites can mean that such matters are overlooked or the more common traditional allotment template applied. This may well not be appropriate, with new ways of approaching stewardship of such spaces considered in more depth in Chapter 6. What is more certain however is that, in lieu of the reduced area of land required to be provided for alternative forms of food growing space, higher developer contributions could be secured towards management and maintenance to ensure they best meet the needs of the new residents.

5.4 It is on this basis that the recommendations are made in **Table 4.7** as to the types of food growing provision that should be sought by site typology.

5.5 This chapter will use that principle to recommend the approach that should be taken in the emerging Local Plan. This includes proposing appropriate policy wording for inclusion in the Regulation 19 Local Plan.

Approach and proposed policy wording

Large or Very Large sites where standard can be met in full

5.6 All 'Very Large' sites are capable of meeting the food growing standard in full on site, as can many 'Large' sites. This could be through allotment provision alone, although in order to provide greater breadth in opportunities it is preferable to require a mix of allotments and community growing spaces. As explained above, the provision of more space-efficient models such as community growing spaces would reduce the area required to meet the standard. It should also be recognised that the ability to deliver community growing spaces would depend on the appropriate stewardship arrangements being in place, a matter which is addressed in the next chapter.

5.7 In terms of the cost of such provision, this clearly would depend on the mix of food growing spaces. Below is an illustration of how a mix of provision could be approached:

Bourne Airfield New Village (S/BA) is required to deliver 3,500 dwellings supporting a population of 9,975 people. This creates a need for 4 hectares of food growing space. This could be provided as follows:

- 2-3 allotment spaces, located across the site to maximise accessibility, providing approximately 300 plots in total over 3 hectares; plus
- 1 community garden of approximately 0.5 hectares.

This provision of only 3.5 hectares recognises that a community garden is likely to be a more efficient way of contributing towards the overall need than solely allotment provision.

In the Regulation 18 Local Plan, the wording of Policy S/BA.4j required provision of 'Allotments'. This should be amended in the Regulation 19 Local Plan to read:

4j. 'Allotments, community growing spaces and other food growing opportunities to meet the needs of the resident population as appropriate;'

5.8 Each site allocation will need to be reviewed individually, and a judgement made as to the mix and any accompanying wording amendment in the Local Plan policy. It should be borne in mind that the greater the number of individual, stand alone food growing spaces, the greater the need for groups to be invested in them and be a core part of their stewardship.

5.9 The policy wording for all of these sites in the “Very Large’ site typology should be reviewed and amended as proposed above, as should those in the ‘Large’ category where the standard can be met.

Large and Medium sites where a significant amount of the standard can be met

5.10 Most of the sites in these typologies are able to make a contribution towards meeting the draft food growing standard on-site, with many having the scope for a significant contribution. However, the profile of what they can provide on-site will vary. On the sites with the greatest scope, there may be the opportunity to provide a small community growing space; those with the least scope may only be able to provide edible landscaping.

5.11 Each site allocation policy in the Regulation 18 Local Plan will need to be reviewed. As an illustration:

The Moor, Moor Lane, Melbourn (S/RRA/ML) is required to deliver only 20 dwellings but on a relatively large site (1.08 hectares). As such, it could meet the food growing standard. However, clear policy guidance is needed as to how such provision (for a population of 52 people, equating to just over 200sqm of space) could be delivered.

Regulation 18 Local Plan Policy S/RRA/ML did not specifically direct any provision. Therefore, the Regulation 19 Local Plan should include the following clause:

‘Space should be provided to deliver informal food growing opportunities.’

Clause 1a could also be amended to read:

‘Development should retain existing trees and strengthen the existing landscape buffer to double the width of the eastern and southern boundaries, with edible landscaping planted where possible and appropriate.’

5.12 An alternative example is where the amount of land required to meet the growing space standard on site is too large. In the example below, there are some green spaces in the immediate locality where off-site provision is theoretically possible:

Land at Maarnford Farm, Hunts Road, Duxford (S/RSC/MF) is required to deliver 60 dwellings on a 1.56-hectare site. It cannot meet the food growing standard (with a generated population of 156 people equating to nearly 625sqm of space) but there may be some potential for limited provision, subject to the design of any scheme.

Regulation 18 Local Plan Policy S/RSC/MF did not specifically direct any provision. Therefore, the Regulation 19 Local Plan should include the following clauses:

‘Design of development has explored opportunities to provide informal growing opportunities on site.’

‘Financial contributions will be secured towards the provision of food growing space off-site.’

Clause 1c could also be amended to read:

‘Retention of the existing hedgerows and the provision of a substantial landscape edge using edible species where possible and appropriate, to include tree buffers...’

5.13 It should be noted for the review of individual site allocations that specific opportunities both on- and off-site have been identified in this study (see **Appendix E**) which should be scoped out in the first instance. In the case of off-site opportunities, this may strengthen the case to secure Section 106 contributions as opposed to using Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), if a CIL regime were to be introduced.

Medium, Small and Very Small sites where the food growing standard cannot be met

5.14 A limited number of the sites in these typologies will be able to make anything more than a minimal contribution towards meeting the food growing standard on-site. However, given the extremely limited availability of food growing space particularly in

urban Cambridge where many of these site allocations are located, all should be contributing in some way to the expansion of provision.

5.15 Each policy in the Regulation 18 Local Plan will need to be reviewed. The following set of policy matters should be considered in each case:

Where landscaping is required, the following wording should be added:

‘...using edible species where possible and appropriate...’

Where there may be opportunity to provide some informal growing space on site, the following wording should be added:

‘Design of development has explored opportunities to provide informal growing opportunities on site, including through the provision of a roof garden.’

For all circumstances where there is a shortfall in provision against the food growing standard, the following wording should be added:

‘Financial contributions will be secured towards the provision of food growing space off-site.’

Windfall sites

5.16 As with the smaller site typologies, the extremely limited availability of food growing space means all residential and mixed use sites should be contributing in some way to the expansion of provision. It is expected that there will be a significant number of windfall sites coming forward over the plan period. Many of these are likely to be on large sites and at high densities, thereby creating significant additional need for food growing spaces.

5.17 For such windfall sites, this should be addressed through the development management policy framework of the Local Plan. In the Regulation 18 Local Plan, Policy BG/EO (Providing and enhancing open spaces) sets out under point 2(c) that:

‘The Councils are exploring the potential to require the following standards for major residential development....0.4ha of food growing space per 1,000 population.’

5.18 In order to ensure that windfall development makes an appropriate contribution towards the provision of food growing space, the following wording is proposed for the Regulation 19 version of Policy BG/EO:

‘Major residential-led developments must demonstrate provision of food growing space equivalent to 0.4 ha per 1,000 population. In order to provide access and wellbeing benefits close to where people live, food growing spaces should be provided on-site by default. However, where land availability constraints can be evidenced which mean that this level of provision clearly cannot be achieved, alternative provision of community growing spaces and/or other informal food growing opportunities should still seek to be made on-site. This should be designed and of a type which maximises the number of residents and other users of the site that can actively engage in food growing. Where the estimated population is at a scale where the quantity of food growing space required on-site would be too small to be an effective space, off-site provision may be allowable. In such circumstances, financial contributions will be secured.’

Developer contributions

5.19 Planning obligations in the form of developer contributions must be:

- necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
- directly related to the development; and
- fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

5.20 This study along with the work to establish a food growing standard addresses the extent to which contributions are necessary. Any off-site provision would need to be in the immediate locality (which this study has established as being within a 5-minute walk) in order to be directly related to the development. The extent to which a contribution is fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind is largely related to the value of contributions sought.

5.21 Based on the costings work presented in Chapter 4, the following is considered to represent the basis for seeking financial contributions:

Capital: As detailed in Chapter 4, an estimated capital cost for an allotment serving 800 dwellings is £25,000. This equates to **£31.25 per dwelling**.

Maintenance: A reasonable allowance for maintenance (taking into consideration the evidence from allotment societies that, despite collecting allotment charges, this is insufficient to cover in full the ongoing maintenance cost of allotments) is **£10 per dwelling**.

Total cost: £41 per dwelling.

5.22 The above assumes that developer contributions would be secured through Section 106. Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service recently consulted on a draft Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) regime. If this were to be introduced and if its scope were to include provision of food growing, then this would make securing contributions much more straightforward. However, the consultation proposed that CIL would only contribute towards meeting the costs of transport infrastructure.

Chapter 6

Delivery and Stewardship Strategy

6.1 [To be completed later in the process]

Chapter 7

Summary and recommendations

Summary

7.1 The study was commissioned to understand current and future needs for allotments and wider food growing spaces across Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, particularly in light of significant growth planned to 2045 through the Emerging Local Plan. The population is expected to increase by around 203,494 people, placing pressure on existing green and community infrastructure and requiring a coordinated strategy for delivering new and improved food growing provision.

7.2 The study provides:

- an evidence base on current supply, demand, and quality of allotments and other food growing spaces;
- a needs assessment to inform Emerging Local Plan policy and standards;
- recommendations on delivery, stewardship, and potential policy wording.

7.3 The definition of food growing space is intentionally broad, covering allotments, community gardens, community orchards, community farms, informal growing areas, roof gardens and edible landscaping.

Current Provision in Greater Cambridge

Existing supply

7.4 Provision varies significantly between Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire:

- Cambridge City: 28 allotment sites (36 ha); 1 community orchard (2 ha); 3 community gardens (0.85 ha).
- South Cambridgeshire: 87 allotment sites (87.6 ha); 16 community orchards (7.9 ha); 1 community garden (0.55 ha).

Site characteristics

7.5 Survey results show:

- Mid sized allotment sites (51–100 plots) are the most common (25%).
- Half plots (c.125sqm) are now the most frequently provided plot size (47%).

7.6 Quality ratings are generally high, averaging 7.24/10, though accessibility and water supply were highlighted as the most common things requiring improvement.

Demand

7.7 Demand is strong:

- 62% of allotment sites have waiting lists; only 19% have spare plots.
- Waiting lists vary widely but average 24 people, with a median of 13. A small number of sites have very long waiting lists (30–100+), particularly in Cambridge City.
- Cambridge City Council-owned allotments alone have 559 people on their most recent waiting list, with no equivalent full dataset for South Cambridgeshire.

7.8 This suggests acute demand within Cambridge City and growing pressures elsewhere.

Funding and recent investment

7.9 Thirteen development sites have secured S106 developer contributions towards allotments since 2018, with the majority (12) in South Cambridgeshire. However, actual receipt of funds has been limited.

7.10 South Cambridgeshire District Council launched a £100,000 Allotment Improvement Grant scheme in 2025, funding 16 organisations up to £10,000 each to improve access to water, pest control, facilities, and social value.

Future Need and Local Plan Requirements

Proposed standard

7.11 The Emerging Local Plan is exploring a standard of 0.4 hectares of food growing space per 1,000 population. Applying this standard to planned growth indicates a need for:

- 68 hectares of new food growing space overall across all site allocations.
- Around 28 hectares required within the plan period, with very large, medium density sites accounting for the vast majority of need.

Site typologies and capacity

7.12 Very large, medium density sites - including new settlements such as Cambourne North, Waterbeach and Northstowe - are almost exclusively the only locations able to meet the full standard on-site.

7.13 Urban Cambridge sites, typically small/very small and high/very high density, cannot meet the standard and will rely on:

- informal growing spaces,
- roof gardens, and
- edible landscaping, with financial contributions to support off-site provision.

7.14 Across all typologies except very large, medium density, full standard compliance is predominantly unachievable, but meaningful contributions are still possible through design-led interventions.

Delivery Potential Across Greater Cambridge

Urban Cambridge

7.15 Only North East Cambridge within urban Cambridge has the potential to meet the food growing standard on site. Other sites can deliver:

- roof gardens;
- edible landscaping; and

- small informal spaces, with limited off site opportunities (often on spaces not suitable for formal food growing).

Edge of Cambridge sites

7.16 Very large, medium density sites on the edge of Cambridge have strong potential to accommodate:

- allotments;
- community gardens; and
- diverse informal growing opportunities.

New settlements

7.17 All new settlement sites can meet the 0.4 ha/1,000 standard, offering multiple locations for formal and informal growing.

Rural areas

7.18 Large and medium-sized, low density sites provide good opportunities; however most employment-led rural sites are unsuitable for food growing, except for edible landscaping.

Types of Food Growing Suitable for Each Site Typology

7.19 The study identifies the best forms of provision by typology:

- Very Large and Large: Allotments, community gardens, informal growing, edible landscaping.
- Medium: Community gardens, informal growing; allotments unlikely to be feasible.
- Very Small and Small sites: Roof gardens, informal spaces, edible landscaping; allotments not feasible.
- Non residential sites: Limited to edible landscaping and occasional community gardens.

7.20 It is recommended that this typology-led approach guides the policy wording in the Regulation 19 Local Plan.

Cost of Providing Food Growing Spaces

7.21 The report sets out indicative capital costs for different types of provision, including:

- £25,000 for a 0.9ha allotment site supporting 2,250 people;
- £19,000 for a 0.5ha community garden;
- £1,600 for a small informal growing space;
- £2,150 for a roof garden; and
- £1,500 for edible landscaping.

7.22 These figures support a proposed developer contribution rate of £41 per dwelling (combining capital and maintenance).

Key Recommendations

Follow good and innovative practice

7.23 Ultimately, food growing can be achieved in the smallest of spaces, up walls, on roofs and even indoors. The extent to which much of this can be achieved is less a function of the planning system and more related to the networks that are created. The Sustainable Food Somerset (case study 1 in **Appendix B**) network of land mapping and growers focused on creating a network of growers and creating the opportunities for them to connect. This developed a sense of community and enabled the sharing of knowledge and experience, along with provision of the physical tools groups of people needed to get started.

7.24 Where spaces are needed, these can be very small. In the Cambridge City context, almost all of the emerging site allocations have the theoretical potential to support growing on-site and on the ground in some form, if the examples of good practice are followed. Whilst a food forest may not necessarily be appropriate for an urban setting, the Sidmouth Community Food Forest (case study 2 in **Appendix B**) was delivered on just 1,000sqm of land (just over 30m x 30m).

7.25 Successful spaces are those that bring communities, not just established growers, together. The post-war model of growing being on large allotment plots is no longer appropriate. On new developments, people tend to be novice or inexperienced growers who want to 'dip their toe' into growing on small plots, ideally with experienced people showing them what to do. And they also want to share this

experience with others in the same position and for these spaces to be open to shared events. Arguably, a space dedicated to a pure community garden can provide for the food growing needs of a far greater number of people than a traditional allotment space. Food growing is less about growing to feed a family and more about a shared experience that enhances health and wellbeing and provides a space where biodiversity can thrive.

7.26 The examples presented in this report show a myriad of different ways that food growing spaces can be provided. What they show is that having the space is only a relatively small part of the story; having the structures to provide what the community wants by way of activities on that space is the key to success.

Policy wording and approach

7.27 Very Large and Large sites should explicitly be required to provide one or more of a combination of allotments, community growing spaces, and other food growing opportunities.

7.28 Medium and small sites should be required to provide one or more of a combination of edible landscaping, informal growing or roof gardens, with financial contributions where standards cannot be met.

7.29 Windfall sites should also contribute to food growing provision via on-site or off-site measures. This should be assessed on a site-by-site basis, applying the same approach to assess requirements as used in this study.

Stewardship and long term management

7.30 The study highlights the importance of governance structures, particularly for community gardens and other communal spaces, but detailed stewardship proposals are to be completed later.

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