

Scrutiny Topic Assessment Form

What is the broad topic area?

Edible York: Creating food growing space across the city

What is the specific topic area?

To explore what role can the Council play in the above

Our ambitions for the review. We will:

Look at current York initiatives (Edible York, Abundance, garden sharing)

Look at current policy and performance

What are the regulatory & institutional barriers?

Undertake an audit of demand for land for the purpose of food growing (public and private & the assets we already have)

Look at good practice in other local authority areas, including the 'Incredible edible' movement

Learn how the council can work in partnership with a wide range of community groups to create resilience and community cohesion

Look at how to promote more home and community vegetable plots, composting etc

Develop a plan to make local food growing schemes happen For example: garden share, more allotments, temporary or longer term use of CYC and development land for food growing, volunteering schemes, education/ demonstration projects etc

How well do we perform at the moment?

Strong demand for allotments – some ad hoc garden sharing and parish council initiatives

First Edible York community vegetable patch near Barbican- summer 2010

Edible York launch event Nov 19th 2010

Edible York website – no promotion by the council of this initiative

No audit of what is happening across the city

Who and how shall we consult? Do we need any experts/specialists? (internal/external)

Ward Committees & Parish Councils, Edible York/Incredible Edible groups, BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers), St Nicholas Fields, Relevant CYC officers

Other possibilities include – Askham Bryan College, York Rotters, students, Allotment Associations, Joseph Rowntree Foundation; York Natural Environment Trust

Other local authorities in terms of good practice

London Assembly review - 'Cultivating the Capital' and consultees

What other help do we need? E.g. training/development/resources

Information could be gathered over a series of meetings & information gathering sessions, visits, plus community based activity in conjunction with Edible York and other named groups

How long should it take?

Approximately 6 months but this could be dependent on Member availability

What will be the outcome of any review?

The Council will have a strategy for partnership working and community engagement in developing locally grown food.