



## Allotments - growing in popularity

Increasing food prices and greater environmental awareness are making allotments ever more popular, as demonstrated by latest research from the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE).

A survey by APSE revealed that demand for allotments is high and waiting lists are under pressure.

APSE reports that councils are responding positively to the popularity of allotments among their residents however. Investment in allotments has increased and facilities, such as water supply, storage and parking, have improved. The survey also found most respondents offer concessions on fees to senior citizens, disabled people and people on low incomes.

Anne Clayton, APSE's principal advisor on environmental issues, said:

**'It is encouraging that so many people are keen to grow their own produce and reduce the environmental impact of 'food miles' in the process. Councils' investment in allotments shows that they are able to recognise increased demand and dovetail resources to meet that – despite financial pressures they face.'**

APSE's chief executive, Paul O'Brien, commented:

**'The demand for allotments is part of an increasing public interest in environmental issues and eating organic, locally sourced produce - particularly among young people who are now being encouraged to grow vegetables at schools. Councils are at the forefront in tackling climate change, encouraging healthy eating and promoting social inclusion - and allotments are a way to do all three.'**

### Ends

APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence works with over 250 local councils throughout the UK

Local Authority Allotments Provision by Anne Clayton, APSE principal advisor on environmental issues, is APSE Briefing 08/20 and is available to download from the APSE website on [www.apse.org.uk](http://www.apse.org.uk)

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