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# Gardens for Life

## Tower Hamlets Community Gardens



# Gardens for Life: Tower Hamlets Community Gardens

Between April 2014 and June 2015:

- Set up 15 new community gardens
- 150 residents actively engaged in food growing
- 2000 residents engaged in the project across a mixture of ages, genders, ethnicities
- 40 training sessions delivered/facilitated





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# December 2013

- 15 years in Tower Hamlets supporting food growing
- Coordinating the Tower Hamlets Food Growing Network (THFGN)
- Made aware of tender by Public Health
- Tenders Portal- not all boroughs the same
- 2 weeks to submit



# Putting together a successful tender bid

- Partnership building- collaboration and competition
- Building on strengths
  - Locally based- reputation and track record
  - THFGN- sustainability





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# The Process

- Submitting the application
  - Invited to attend a Briefing Session
  - Lengthy and bureaucratic
- Passing first stage
  - Invited to interview/present
- Lack of clarity





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# Challenges

- Partnership building
- Time frame to submit
- Policies and procedures
- VAT
- Pre-defined project
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Council bureaucracy
- Growing season





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# Strategies for success



- Steering Group
- M&E- wide range of methods
- Planning ahead for sustainability