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
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
The Process

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

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

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