

# Community food growing

The Capital Growth campaign helped to establish 2,012 new community food growing spaces in London by the end of 2012. Following achievement of this ambitious goal, Capital Growth is now offering support so that community groups can continue to flourish, for the benefit of Londoners' health and wellbeing, and improving the urban environment.

The Capital Growth network is now also opened to home and allotment growers. A new campaign launched in 2013 - a Million Meals for London - is helping groups to record their harvest, improve their yield and collect important data on the productivity of food growing spaces in London.

Local authorities have been asked to renew (or initiate) their commitment to Capital Growth by providing a contact point and outlining how they will support their residents and community groups to continue to grow food and run food growing projects in their boroughs. This could be ensuring access to land, providing small



grants and promoting food growing in council strategies and service plans, depending on what is locally appropriate.

Food growing has been recognised in the London Plan<sup>1</sup> (Policy 7.22), which commits to encourage and support farming in London, particularly in the Green Belt and states that "use of land for growing food will be encouraged nearer to urban communities via such mechanisms as 'Capital Growth'". Capital Growth has identified which boroughs have incorporated community food growing into Local Plans and supporting guidance and will be producing guidance to help all London Boroughs to follow good practice on this theme.

## Community food growing in Lambeth

Lambeth Council has been active in its support for community food growing. The council's Sustainability Unit and Green Community Champions programme have worked closely with both Capital Growth and community group Incredible Edible Lambeth to spread food growing across the borough. Through the Estate Pride, Neighbourhood Enhancement and Community Freshview Programmes, the borough is supporting food growing on housing estates and in public spaces. Support is provided in the form of small grants, tools, capital works - for example building raised beds, and officer support and mentoring. The council is co-funding a GP Food Co-op initiative, which includes the aim of using land within GP surgeries for food growing. This year, support from the council for Incredible Edible Lambeth's successful £170,000 bid means there will continue to be strong support for community food growing within the borough. The council has also formalised its commitment through the inclusion of community food growing in the borough's Draft Local Plan.



*"We are very proud to have over 170 community food growing projects in Lambeth. The number is growing and we have found that they contribute to a wide range of outcomes from community cohesion to health and wellbeing."*

Sue Foster, Executive Director of  
Housing, Regeneration and  
Environment, Lambeth Council

<sup>1</sup> The London Plan: Spatial development strategy for London. July 2011, Mayor of London [www.london.gov.uk/priorities/planning/londonplan](http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/planning/londonplan)

## What are London Boroughs doing for community food growing?



### Map key

- Borough supporting the work of Capital Growth **AND** is recognising the importance of community food growing within council planning policy
- Borough supporting the work of Capital Growth **OR** is recognising the importance of community food growing within council planning policy
- Borough is not supporting the work of Capital Growth or recognising the importance of community food growing within planning policy\*

*\* Let us know if you think things have improved in your borough. We will update the map as more action is taken.*

### Capital Growth: tracking borough progress

In the 2011 edition of the Good Food for London report, 19 boroughs out of the 33 had by then signed up to Capital Growth, with three more making good progress. By 2012, 22 boroughs had signed up. In 2013 a total of 16 London boroughs are both supporting the work of Capital Growth and recognise community food growing in council planning policy.

### What can London Boroughs do?

Sign up to support Capital Growth and commit to community food growing within council planning policy. Contact:

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