

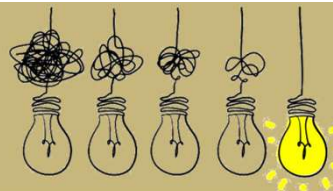


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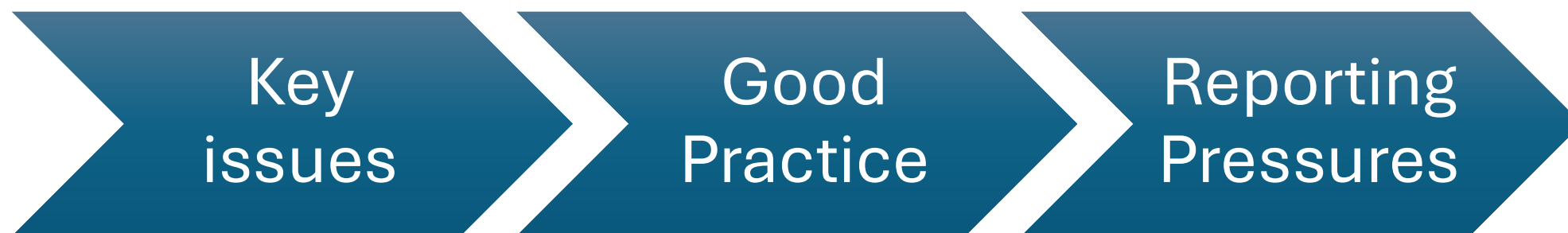
# Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 – Part 9 Allotments

Fiona Sutton-Wilson, Head of APSE Training





## Allotments duties under Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015



Policy responsibility for community food growing (including Allotments/Part 9) sits in Food and Drink Division in Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate.

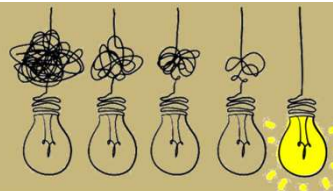
2015 - Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act

2022 - Review into implementation of Part 9 undertaken by Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

2024 - SG commissioned APSE to:

- consult local authorities to establish knowledge and needs
- deliver three knowledge-building workshops focussing on ALLOTMENTS.
- Pay particular attention to reporting and networking
- Report on the outcomes





1. To **set out** the **statutory duties** imparted by Part 9 on Scottish Ministers and Local Authorities, increasing attendees' **confidence, knowledge and ability to deliver** statutory duties.
2. **Obtain views** from attendees on the benefits, drawbacks and requirements of an **optional standardised annual allotment report template** which could be created by the Scottish Government.
3. Identify appropriate and cost-effective methods to enable and encourage **ongoing knowledge exchange** between local authority officers who are implementing Part 9.

# Key issues effecting local authorities across Scotland



**Part 9 Allotments Local Government Survey** sent to **49** LG officers  
Return rate was **45%** with **22** responses received.  
These helped to shape the workshops.

**How confident do you feel about implementing Part 9 of the  
Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015?**

1% to 100%

40% differential between individuals within authorities.



**Which aspects do you feel less confident about/would you like to know more about?**

**50%** of respondents said they lacked confidence in the delegation of management of allotment sites.





## **1. Finding suitable land/sites**

- Contamination - unsuitable for food growing

## **2. Developers**

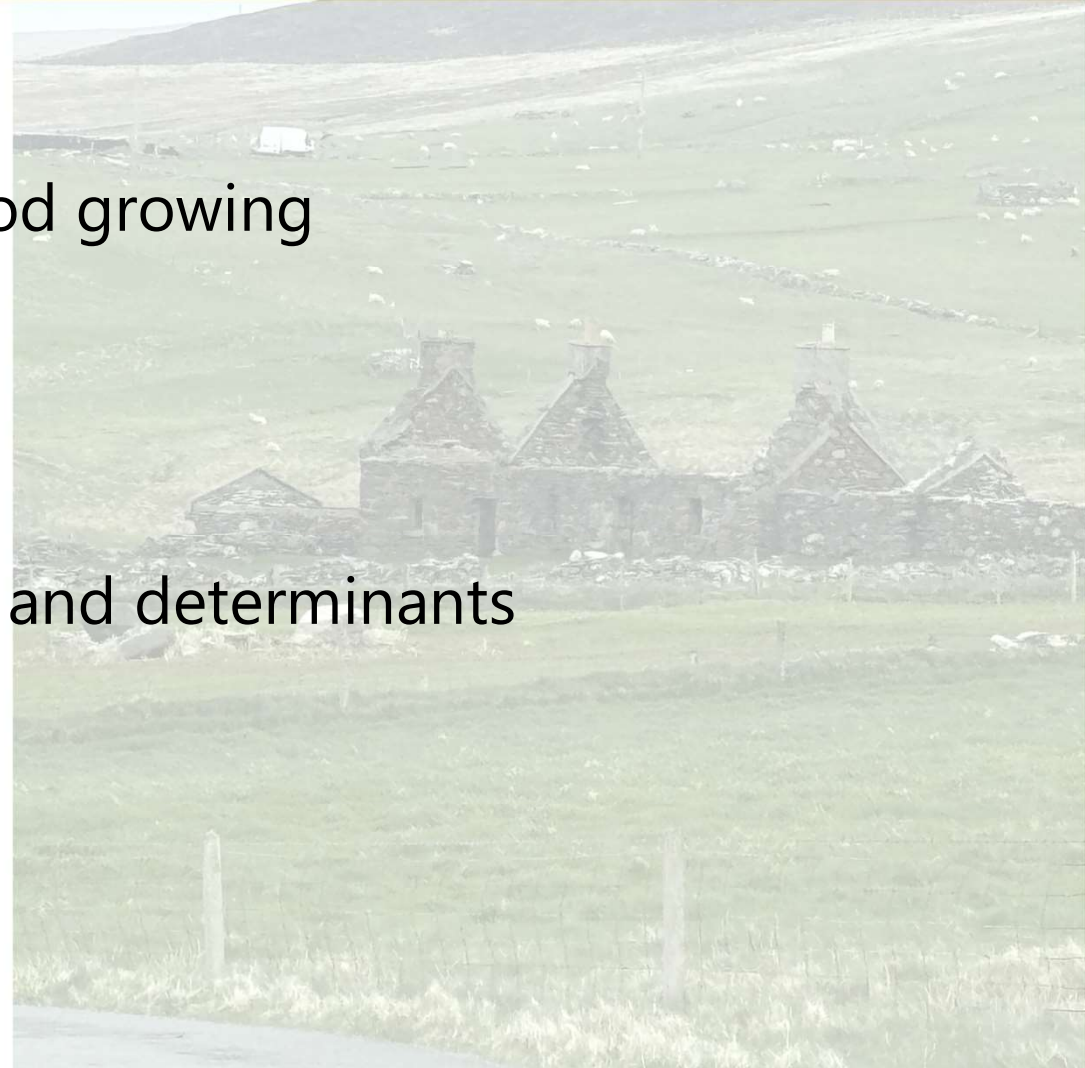
- Management and funding
- Housing

## **3. One size doesn't fit all**

- Geographical/local considerations and determinants
- Distance requirements
- Plots - size, restoration

## **4. Land use**

- Community gardens
- Common Good land



## **1. Funding**

- No nationally ringfenced resources

## **2. Leadership**

- Training for senior leadership, inc. Elected Members

## **3. Compliance**

- Lack of consequences

## **4. Staffing**

- Time, knowledge and skills



# Key issues - COMMUNITIES

1. Waiting lists
2. Leases
3. Complaints – risk of raised expectations with lack of resources to meet demand
4. Community interest/engagement;
5. Committees/associations; developing Allotment Regulations.





# Good practice from both urban and rural communities



**Aberdeenshire**  
COUNCIL



- ☐ Creation of new community garden sites
- ☐ Leasing of a historic walled garden to a privately run allotment group.
- ☐ Good relationship with Allotment Association and effective management of waiting list.
- ☐ Manage the sites consistently in accordance with the Council's Allotment Rules and Regulations.
- ☐ Contacting people on waiting list annually to confirm accuracy and manage personal data.
- ☐ Delegating responsibility for waiting lists, allocating plots, enforcement and inspections to Allotment Associations for each site.
- ☐ Learning lessons from allotment design



# Reporting purpose and pressures



## **Reporting was inconsistent** **Concerns raised about report-writing skills**





- ☐ Appetite for a template
- ☐ Purpose
- ☐ Content flexibility
- ☐ Data collection and report accessibility



**The Scottish  
Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

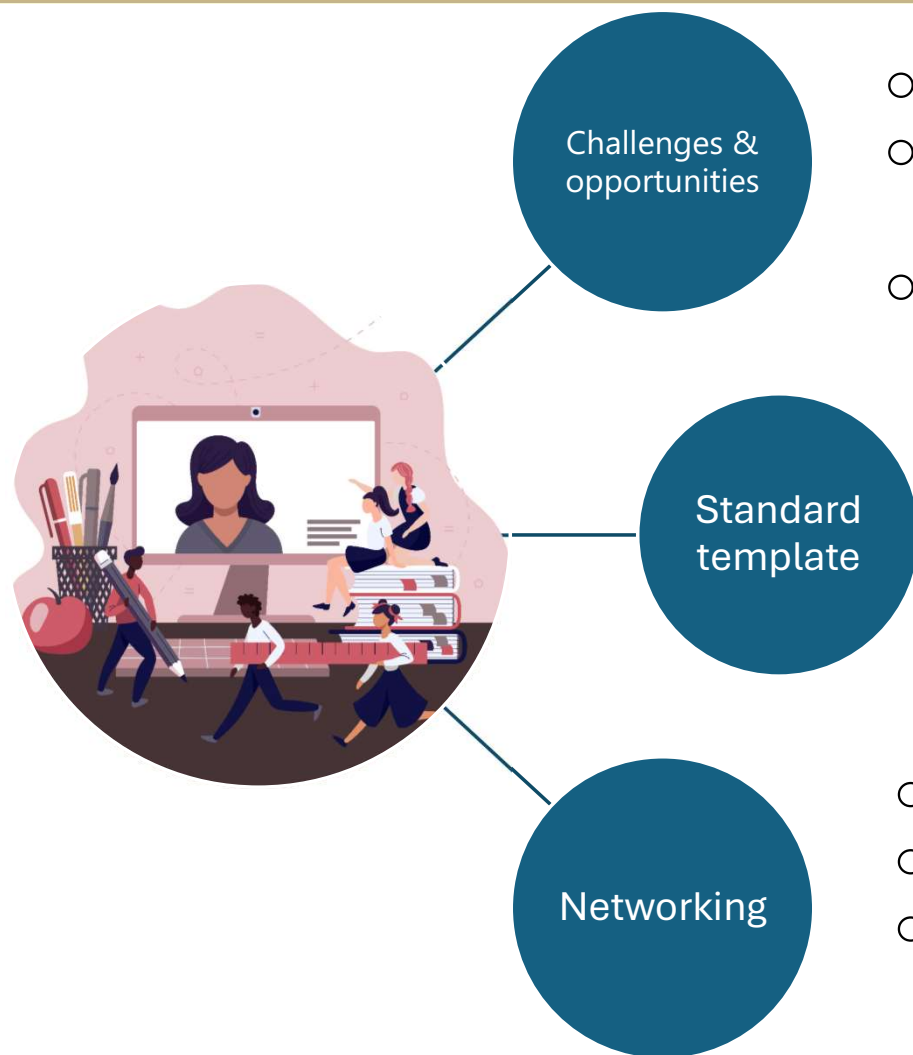


## What should be included?

- ☐ Everything required in section 121 and/or otherwise required
- ☐ A section for challenges and how these are being tackled
- ☐ Contributions to corporate aims and objectives (it was suggested that this would elevate the value of and budget allocation for allotments)
- ☐ Wider benefits of allotments to the community
- ☐ Flexibility to accommodate specific local circumstances and other reporting (e.g., biodiversity data).



# Recommendations



- Reduce plot size to reduce waiting lists
  - Training for Elected Members on statutory duties
  - Explore alternative funding to build capacity
- Create clear template and mechanism
  - Clarity of purpose
  - Flexibility to accommodate context and avoid multiple reports
- Networking via neutral party
  - Responses to reports
  - Keep communication open and positive

# Contact us

The team is ready to help.

Please direct enquiries to: [training@apse.org.uk](mailto:training@apse.org.uk) | 0161 772 1810

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