

Date received:	8 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Date responded:	27 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Subject:	Douglas City Council Allotments

Question:

**“Please supply copies of any correspondence relating to proposals or plans for development of the Douglas City allotment area situated on/just off Johnny Wattersons Lane, Douglas.”**

Response:

Whilst the Council aims to provide information wherever possible, your request has been classified as exempt under Section 41 of the Freedom of Information Act 2015 – *Information for Future Publication*.

The Council confirms that there is a long-standing proposal in principle to utilise the allotments at Johnny Wattersons lane to facilitate a cemetery expansion with the allotments being relocated. This report is currently in draft form and has not yet been considered by the relevant Committee. It is intended that the outcome of the report will be published, once it has been finalised and considered by the Council’s Regeneration and Community Committee later in the year.

Section 41 of the Freedom of Information Act is a qualified exemption and requires us to carry out a public interest test.

### **Public Interest Test**

Whilst the Council recognises that there is public interest in understanding the planning and development of local sites such as the allotments, at this stage the draft report is subject to internal review and potential significant changes. The plan has not yet been considered by the Regeneration and Community Committee and is therefore not an approved Council document. Releasing it now could lead to confusion or misinterpretation of early, incomplete information.

The Council considers that it is in the public interest to ensure that information released is accurate, complete, and presented in its final approved context. On balance, the Council has concluded that the public interest lies in withholding the draft report until the final version has been considered and approved by the Council’s Regeneration and Community Committee later this year.