

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISION RECORD

The following decision was taken on 23 January 2018 by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure.

Date notified to all members: Tuesday 23 January 2018

The end of the call-in period is 4:00 pm on Monday 29 January 2018

Unless called-in, the decision can be implemented from Tuesday 30 January 2018

1. **TITLE**

Allotment Rent Increase for 2019- 20

2. **DECISION TAKEN**

That: -

(i) the rent for allotments in 2019/20 is increased in line with inflation, i.e.2.7%;

(ii) the Head of Parks and Countryside be authorised to carry out consultation on future changes to the charging structure and concessions as described in the report; and

(iii) a seasonal ban on bonfires be approved as allotments policy, with fires on allotment sites prohibited from 1st May to 30th September each year.

3. **Reasons For Decision**

The recommendation regarding the rents effectively enables us to maintain the status quo.

The recommendation regarding fires is felt to be the best overall outcome for local residents and the allotment community.

4. **Alternatives Considered And Rejected**

Rents could be left at the same level. However due to inflation this would effectively be akin to a reduction in budget. This was rejected because the current allotment budget is not felt to be larger than needed. A reduction would decrease the level of service and site improvements.

Rents could be increased by a larger amount, or pricing could be changed but in some way other than a small percentage increase across the board. There have been discussions at the allotment advisory group around a larger increase in rent for a specific purpose, e.g. creation of a sinking fund, or a budget allocation specifically for the purpose of promotion of allotments in areas of lower demand, or increasing prices slightly more for the smaller plots (since the same amount of

administration is needed for a smaller plot as for a larger one). Such changes would require wider consultation and it is proposed that all tenants are consulted, via a questionnaire, in 2018.

We could not introduce a seasonal ban on fires on allotments. However it is likely that the result would be that many local residents would still feel frustrated by smoke generated by fires. This is obviously a bad thing for the affected residents, and also it detrimentally affects the relationships between the allotment sites and their local community.

We considered introducing greater restrictions but without a total ban, e.g. only allowing fires on a certain evening during the summer months, or only allowing fires in suitable incinerators during the summer months, however it was felt that a total ban in the summer months is clearer, and easier to understand and enforce.

5. **Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted**

None

6. **Respective Director Responsible for Implementation**

Executive Director, Place

7. **Relevant Scrutiny Committee If Decision Called In**

Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee