

## SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

### INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISION RECORD

The following decision was taken on 22 January 2019 by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure.

Date notified to all Members: Tuesday 22 January 2019

The end of the call-in period is 4:00 pm on Monday 28 January 2019

Unless called-in, the decision can be implemented from Tuesday 29 January 2019

#### 1. **TITLE**

Allotment Rent Increase for 2020/2021 and Changes to Discount Structure for Allotment Rents.

#### 2. **DECISION TAKEN**

That:-

(a) the rent for allotments in 2020/21 is increased in line with inflation, i.e. 2.6%; and

(b) the amendments to the allotment discount structure, described in the report, are agreed and the revised discount structure set out in paragraph 1.3.4 is approved with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

#### 3. **Reasons For Decision**

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

The recommendations regarding the discounts will enable more people who need the discount to claim it, but reduce the number of discounts awarded to people who are able to pay the rent.

#### 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 in some way other than a small percentage increase across the board. However, based on the results of the consultation questionnaire in January 2018 and

previous discussions at Allotment Advisory Group, an increase in line with inflation has emerged as the overall preferred option, otherwise it would deter people from renting allotments.

Discounts could be left the same. However, this would be detrimental to those in receipt of Carer's Allowance. Not changing the criteria for claiming the Senior Citizen discount would mean we would continue to award a discount to some people who do not need a discount to be able to pay. Not changing the student discounts would mean we would continue to use criteria which are cumbersome and unfair to some.

Other changes could be made to the discounts. However, no suitable alternative changes have been identified at present, and the changes proposed are in line with recent confirmation by the tenant questionnaires.

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