

PART A - Initial Impact Assessment

Proposal Name: Allotment Rent proposal increase 2025/26

EIA ID: 2395

EIA Author: James Musgrave

Proposal Outline: To seek approval for an increase in allotment rent and water charges for the year 2025/2026 by 5.96% (an increase below the inflationary rate of 6.8% in July 2023, when we began the consultation process). By increasing rent and water charges we aim to maximise opportunities for people to grow food sustainably through allotments and that the increases are needed to fund the increasing costs associated with the service. The 2023 survey sought a response from tenants where a proposed rent increase ranged between 5% and 10% in increments of 0.5%. The justification to set the lowest figure of 5% is broadly in line with the previous year's agreement of 5.5% and in part due to significantly increasing costs along with the continual impact of rental increases lagging behind inflation as they have to be set over a year in advance. In 2022 we sought responses to 3 options, which included a rent freeze as well as below inflation rates. A rent freeze was not offered this year in the consultation as the costs of the service would have significant budgetary impacts.

Proposal Type: Budget

Entered on QTier: No

QTier Ref: #

Year Of Proposal: 25/26

Lead Director for proposal: Ajman Ali

Service Area: Parks and Countryside

EIA Start Date: 13/10/2023

Lead Equality Objective: Understanding Communities

Equality Lead Officer: Ed Sexton

Decision Type

Committees: Policy Committees

- Communities, Parks & Leisure

Portfolio

Primary Portfolio: Neighbourhood Services

EIA is cross portfolio: No

EIA is joint with another organisation: No

Overview of Impact

Overview Summery: Overall, there are no significant disproportionate, positive or negative impacts from this proposal. The decision to increase annual allotment rents would impact on all our allotment holders. The increase in rent would be comparatively small (between £1.40 (PC1) and £11.50 (>301m²) per customer per year before discount), depending on the size of plot, provision of water and entitlement to a discount. Our survey indicates an even age range of tenants between the age of 34 to 65+ with only 8% between the ages of 19 to 34. Therefore, we don't envisage a specific impact. For Financial inclusion and those in poverty our offer of discounts (up to 75%) are already available and claimed by 39% of tenants to make allotments more

affordable to those on a low income, with disabilities, students or of state pension age. (Our survey indicates that 14% of respondents have a disability). Tenancies held on behalf of voluntary sectors organisations would also be subject to an increase in rent (as above), our survey has not been able to identify individual organisation, however our 23 allotment societies are broadly accepting of an increase of rents and the process we have undertaken. Allotments by their nature contribute health and wellbeing across the social spectrum. The proposed rent increases will guarantee city wide provision. Please see attachments, for profiling information and survey results to confirm the equality impacts

Impacted characteristics:

- Age
- Disability
- Poverty & Financial Inclusion
- Voluntary/Community & Faith Sectors
- Health

Consultation and other engagement

Cumulative Impact

Does the proposal have a cumulative impact: No

Impact areas:

Initial Sign-Off

Full impact assessment required: No

Review Date:

13/10/2023
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Action Plan & Supporting Evidence

Outline of action plan: NA

Action plan evidence: NA

Changes made as a result of action plan:

Mitigation

Significant risk after mitigation measures:

Outline of impact and risks: NA

Review Date

Review Date: 13/10/2023