

PART A - Initial Impact Assessment

Proposal Name: Allotment Rent proposal increase 2026/27

EIA ID: 2395

EIA Author: James Musgrave

Proposal Outline: By increasing rent and water charges by 2% (an increase in line with CPI inflation June 2024) 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 allotments service is self-financing – the service receives no further Council funding. This includes staffing the allotments team and a small budget which is used to fund improvements on sites across the city. A further below inflation rent increase would have significant budgetary impacts. In 2018 a consultation with all allotment holders about rent setting was undertaken, via a questionnaire. The response rate to the questionnaire was 22%. 70% of those who responded indicated that they were in favour of small yearly increases in charges e.g., in line with inflation but that they preferred the decision to be taken annually. It would appear Inflation has returned to pattern established between 1993 and 2021. We will default back to the results of the January 2018 questionnaire.

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 £0.30 (PC1) and £4.05 (>301m²) per customer per year before discount), depending on the size of plot, provision of water and entitlement to a discount. Our most recent rent survey 2023/24 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 35% 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 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:

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: 21/08/2024