

ALLOTMENT WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Head of Service: Samantha Whitehead, Interim Assistant Head of Operational Services

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Wards affected: (All Wards);

Urgent Decision?(yes/no)

If yes, reason urgent decision required:

Appendices (attached):

Summary

To report on the work of the Allotments Working Group during 2023/24.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Note the report and the work of the Allotments Working Group during the 2023-24 year.

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 To report on the work of the Allotments Working Group during 2023/24.

2 Background

- 2.1 Following changes to the administration and operational management of the Allotments service over the past ten years and the transfer of this service from Community and Wellbeing Committee to the Environment Committee, the Environment Committee agreed to set up an Allotments Working Group at their meeting on 13th June 2023.
- 2.2 The Terms of Reference (TOR) required reports from the group to be presented through the Committee process to Environment Committee.
- 2.3 This item represents the report of the working group during the civic year 2023-2024.

Environment Committee

15 October 2024

3 Progress of the Working Group During 23/24

- 3.1 The working group comprised Cllr Liz Frost (Chair, and Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee), and two members of the Environment Committee (Cllr Julie Morris and Cllr Steven McCormick), who are also tenants on EEBC run allotments.
- 3.2 The working group meetings were entirely member led with no attendance by officers, but officers provided statistics relating to the allotments.
- 3.3 The working group chair reported that they held two meetings. In line with the TORs, they discussed the current fees and charges; challenges of resources available; waiting lists and tenancies; database concerns and noted the improvement work in progress to implement the My Council Services system; and issues raised by users. A recommendation to reinstate a site representatives' meeting was made and meeting subsequently held.

4 Risk Assessments

Legal or other duties

4.1 Equality Impact Assessment

4.1.1 None

4.2 Crime & Disorder

4.2.1 None

4.3 Safeguarding

4.3.1 None

4.4 Dependencies

4.4.1 None

4.5 Other

4.5.1 None

5 Financial Implications

5.1 None for the purpose of this report.

5.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 None for the purpose of this report.

Environment Committee

15 October 2024

6.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report.

7 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

7.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

- Green & Vibrant
- Safe & Well

7.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

7.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None

7.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:**

7.5 **Partnerships:** None

8 Background papers

8.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- Allotment Working Group Report – 16 July 2024

Other papers:

- None