

Report to Executive



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PORTFOLIO	Housing & Leisure
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Allotment Review 2023

PURPOSE

1. To seek approval to adopt the Review of Allotment Provision 2023 (Appendix 1.)

RECOMMENDATION

2. The Executive is recommended to:
 1. Adopt the Review of Allotment Provision 2023
 2. Note that additional funding for a post of part-time Allotment Officer and to fund a program of allotment improvements will be provided from the Revenue Support Reserve.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. To ensure that the Council provides well managed allotments.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. The purpose of the allotment review is to guide the management and development of allotments in Burnley over the coming years.
5. The review contains an analysis of current provision and management and makes recommendations that will be incorporated into an Allotment Action Plan and implemented in the coming years.
6. Provision of allotments:

The review identifies that there is a shortfall in provision and recommends increasing supply by splitting larger and under-used plots and investigating the provision of additional

allotments sites on existing green spaces. The review also makes recommendations on a stepped charging policy that will encourage tenants to consider giving up parts of larger plots, which will help to create more plots. Proposals on stepped charging will be brought forward when the Council sets fees and charges for 2024/25.

7. Management of allotments:

The review identifies the need to improve the inspection and management of allotment tenancies to ensure that they are well used and don't cause a nuisance to other tenants and neighbours.

It is recommended that a part-time (1 – 2 days per week) post of allotment officer is created to undertake inspections, issue notices to cultivate, show vacant plots to prospective tenants and liaise more closely with existing tenants and associations. It is proposed that a revenue budget of £15k is allocated to fund the post for a temporary period of 5 years.

8. Development of allotments:

To help increase the supply of allotments, the review recommends that a budget is created to enable a programme of clearing and splitting neglected plots and other minor improvements. A budget of £15k allocated in 2022/23 enabled 42 plots to be created and it is proposed that a budget of £15k will be made available to allow this work to continue for a period of 5 years.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

9. The growth item of £30k for the items outlined above will be funded from the 2023/24 Revenue Support Reserve and included in future years revenue budgets.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

10. The implementation of the Allotment Review will contribute to the achievement of the Policy PL4 in the Council's Strategic Plan

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

11. Allotment tenants by survey and with Heasandford, Reedley Hallows and Fennyfold allotment associations.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

12. Review of Allotment Provision 2023

FURTHER INFORMATION

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