

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

Subject: Allotment Service Overview
Committee: Cabinet
Date: 29 March 2011
Cabinet Member: Councillor Michael Leaves
CMT Member: Director for Community Services
Author: Gareth Harrison-Poole, Greenspace Manager
Contact: Tel: 01752 606034
E mail: gareth.harrison-poole@plymouth.gov.uk
Ref: AllotScrutiny/GHP/Mar2011
Key Decision: No
Part: I

Executive Summary:

The attached report is an overview of allotments within the City, current provision, future provision, projects and plans. This report was noted by the Customers and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel during its meeting on the 20 January 2011. Following this a series of recommendations were drafted and these were reviewed and agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on the 26 January 2011.

Corporate Plan 2011 - 2014:

Plymouth's vision for 2020 - city-wide priorities:

A Healthy City: People are leading healthier lives than today

Vulnerable and older people are leading more independent lives

A Safe and Strong City: All communities are truly empowered, valued and engaged

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land

Increase in income from rental charges if increased. Resource implication on the relevant department to undertake a review of the plot sizes if needed.

Other Implications: e.g. Section 17 Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management, Equalities Impact Assessment, etc.

An Equality Impact Assessment would be carried out to consider the impact on any groups when considering rental changes.

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

- (1) that the panel support all efforts being made to find additional land for allotment plots and recommend all channels are explored including direct discussions with public and private land owners e.g. the National Trust;
- (2) that officers establish the funding available in the medium term to contribute towards the allotment service from capital receipts and

Section 106 monies;

- (3) that rents are reviewed on an annual basis but any rent increase should not be such to disadvantage enterprise and other groups using the allotments (for example schools, community groups, groups with special needs, those on low incomes and also making good use of the neighbourhood profiles);
- (4) that a review of the plot sizes is undertaken.

Responses to the above recommendations by the managing department can be found in section 8 of the attached report.

Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:

N/A

Background papers:

Report attached

Sign off: :

Fin	TO	Leg	N/A	HR	N/A	Corp Prop	N/A	IT	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
Originating SMT Member											

1. Recommendations and responses

The following table highlights the recommendations agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on the 26 January 2011. Included in the table below each recommendation is the response from the managing department with a view to ensure the recommendations are carried forward and implemented.

- (1) That the panel support all efforts being made to find additional land for allotment plots and recommend all channels are explored including direct discussions with public and private land owners e.g. the National Trust.

Response

Recommendation Noted

- (2) That officers establish the funding available in the medium term to contribute towards the allotment service from capital receipts and Section 106 monies.

Response

Parks Services Officers progress development opportunities and seek funding for allotments from developments when they arise.

- (3) That rents are reviewed on an annual basis but any rent increase should not be such to disadvantage enterprise and other groups using the allotments (for example schools, community groups, groups with special needs, those on low incomes and also making good use of the neighbourhood profiles).

Response

Allotment rents are reviewed and benchmarked nationally. Before implemented any price increases, an Equality Impact Assessment would be carried out to consider the impact on any groups.

That a review of the plot sizes is undertaken.

- (4) **Response**

It has been found that half plots are more useful for allotment holders and are preferred by them. We are progressing the issuing of half plots when full plots become available. All new plots dedicated on all sites are half plots.