

Appendix A

**ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL
ALLOTMENTS – ACTION PLAN**

DATE: 17th June 2014

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	PROPOSED ACTION	BY WHOM	BUDGET COST	TIMESCALE
<p>1. That subject to the Council’s legal responsibilities in terms of allotments provision being clarified, the possibility of determining whether any external organisations or bodies would be prepared to operate some or all of the authority’s allotments service in return for the receipt of rental income is explored.</p>	<p>Environment Services is already exploring the potential of external organisations operating the allotment service. This will involve ensuring that the Council’s allotment subsidy is reduced and possibly removed over time.</p>	<p>Geoff Field</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>August 2014</p>
<p>2. That depending on the outcome of Recommendation 1 above, allotment holders are encouraged/supported in moving towards self management of sites. Where sites do become self managed, systems should be put in place to provide the required support to enable the transition to take place and to ensure probity and accountability.</p>	<p>The Council has agreed as part of the 2014/15 budget proposals that the subsidy for allotments will be terminated and there will be a move to ‘allow the allotment holders to manage the asset’ The Saltersgill Allotments are already moving towards self- management. A programme for self-management of the remaining allotments will be produced by the end of September 2014 should</p>	<p>Geoff Field</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>September 2014</p>

	<p>recommendation 1 not be implemented. A new governance system to address the areas of probity, accountability and support has been introduced.</p>			
<p>3. That if/where the authority retains responsibility for some allotment sites:</p> <p>a. Consideration is given to increasing rents to increase income.</p> <p>b. A decision is taken as to what services continue to be provided to tenants (eg water, pest-control, refuse removal) and whether such services should be chargeable in future.</p> <p>c. Consideration is given to the future use of unlettable plots and how these can be best managed. This could include examining alternative land use/disposal or continuing to promote rent-free periods for tenants wishing to take on such plots.</p>	<p>a) and b) The Allotment Forum has been informed that in the event that any sites do not move to self-management the allotment subsidy would be reduced either by a reduction in costs or failing that price increases. This would be carried out in consultation with the allotment holders. Any changes in rents over the level of inflation would need to be set as part of the budget process in conjunction with members. This however would depend on the outcomes of 1 and 2 above and the potential for allotment holders to reduce costs.</p> <p>c) A plan as to how to address the unlettable plots will be produced with appropriate measures to ensure these plots are reduced appropriately</p>	<p>Geoff Field</p> <p>Geoff Field</p> <p>Geoff Field</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>March 2015</p> <p>September 2014</p> <p>October 2015</p>