

Report Author: James Collingridge Head of Environmental Partnerships

Contact: James.collingridge@peterborough.gov.uk

Increase in Allotment Fees and Charges
Councillor Nigel Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment
November 2021
Deadline Date: November 2021

Cabinet portfolio holder	Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment
Responsible Director	Steve Cox – Executive Director Place and Economy
Is this a Key Decision? If yes has it been included on the Forward Plan	Yes, reference number – KEY/8NOV21/01 Yes
Is this decision eligible for call-in?	Yes
Does this Public report have any annex that contains exempt information?	No

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment, is recommended to:

1. Approve the increase in allotment plot fees commencing year 2021 – 2022 and fix these fees for a period of 3 years.

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1. This report outlines the details needed for approval to be given to increase the current allotment plot fees that are charged to residents of Peterborough for our 22 council owned allotment sites.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 This report is for the Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment to consider exercising delegated authority under paragraph 3.4.3 of Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the terms of their portfolio at paragraph (d) and (e).
- 2.2 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to increase the allotment plot fees and fix these for a period of 3 years commencing the current year 2021 – 2022.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 Peterborough Limited trading as Aragon Direct Services (ADS) currently manage all PCC owned allotments and through this role they are also required to invoice tenants each year for their allotment plot fees. All fees that are received are then used for the maintenance and upkeep of the sites including the cost of water usage.
- 4.2 Following consultation with the Allotment Consortium of Peterborough that consist of Site Representatives from each of the allotments, Elected Members, ADS staff and the PCC Head of Environmental Partnerships, it was agreed to look to increase allotment site fees for the current year. The Consortium is regularly updated on the financial position, and it has been seen in recent months that the upkeep and maintenance of the allotments was increasing in cost. Coupled with there not having been an increase in over 10 years it was felt now was the time to look to increase allotment plot fees.
- 4.3 The Allotment Consortium has agreed on the following increase in fees and would like this to be fixed for 3 years with the income being ring fenced to be used to maintain the allotments. The fee increase is proposed as follows: -
- Full Plot – Current price £54.50 new price - £65.00 per annum
 - Part Plot – Current price £41.00 new price £45.00 per annum

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Allotment Consortium of Peterborough which represents relevant stakeholders.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 6.1 The increase in allotment plot fees is agreed and this income can be used to ensure the allotments are maintained to the appropriate standard.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 There has not been an increase in site fees for over 10 years, we are now seeing increasing costs for the maintenance of the sites and site representatives feel that we need to increase our income to ensure that allotment sites can be maintained to an acceptable standard.
- 7.2 We have a waiting list for all sites across Peterborough so this demonstrates the need to ensure they are kept well maintained as a valuable asset to the residents.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 Do nothing – this was not considered viable as we have seen increased costs in maintenance for the sites and without the additional income this could mean that much needed repairs are not carried out.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

9.1 The Fee increase is proposed as follows: -

- Full Plot – Current price £54.50 new price - £65.00 per annum
- Part Plot – Current price £41.00 new price £45.00 per annum

Legal Implications

9.2 This fee increase is made in compliance with section 10 of the Allotments Act 1950.

Equalities Implications

9.3 There are no negative equalities implications.

HR Implications

9.4 None

Carbon Impact Assessment

9.7 The increase in allotment fees will not have any environmental impacts.

10.BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

10.1 None

11.DECLARATIONS / CONFLICTS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS GRANTED

11.1 None

12.APPENDICES

12.1 None