

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

DECISION MAKER	<b>Cllr Martin Veal, Cabinet Member for Communities</b>	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	<b>Single Member Decision</b>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
	<b>On or after 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016</b>	E 2674
TITLE:	<b>Approval of the Allotment Management Plan 2015- 2020</b>	
WARD:	All	
<b>A Single Member Decision</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b> The Allotment Management Plan 2015		

### 1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The Allotment Management Plan sets out to achieve a high quality service provision over the next 5 years and beyond. Many of the targets set are dependent upon available finances – the targets will be reviewed as the financial targets change throughout this period. The plan will be fully monitored throughout the 5 years. This will ensure that it remains current with regard to policy and recognised good practice.

### 2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Allotment Management plan for 2015 to 2020 is adopted (shown in Appendix 1).

### 3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

3.1 All the targets within the management plan are subject to the identification of available funding and resources. Therefore, any revenue costs will be funded within existing budgets and capital costs will be managed through business case assessment and the usual approval process, subject to appropriate funding being identified.

## **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL**

4.1 This management plan promotes environmental sustainability. It seeks to:

- be inclusive by offering a range of plot sizes to encourage provision amongst those who would find the usual standard large plot dimension too daunting for whatever reason.
- ensure equitable distribution by only permitting one plot to one person.
- ensure that tenants on low incomes continue to receive a discount.

4.2 All new allotment sites or extensions to existing sites will be taken forward with due diligence to all Planning obligations.

## **5 THE REPORT**

5.1 The Allotment Management Plan has been developed as a way to improve the management of the allotment service. It is based on the feedback of some of our allotment tenants and with the close collaboration of the Bath and North East Somerset Allotment Association.

5.2 There are currently 42 allotment sites across Bath and North East Somerset of which the council is responsible for 23. All the council managed sites fall within the City of Bath amounting to 1130 plots in total. Other sites are managed by Town and Parish Councils and social housing organisations.

5.3 The plan's key aim is to maximise participation in allotment gardening as the council recognises the importance of allotments as a leisure and recreational facility benefitting the health and wellbeing of communities, providing valuable green spaces for people and wildlife as well as being a means of producing low cost locally grown food in a sustainable way.

5.4 The plan sets out to achieve a high quality service provision over the next 5 years and it is intended that it will link as a sub strategy to the wider Parks and Green Spaces Strategy and the B&NES Local Food Strategy.

## **6 RATIONALE**

6.1 This management plan identifies the priorities and resources required to deliver a good allotment service within the parameters of the available finance and provide a framework for future development.

## **7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

7.1 None

## 8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Bath and North East Somerset Allotment Association have gathered examples of best practice which has informed the production of this document.
- 8.2 The Allotment Association have been fully consulted on all aspects of the final plan and are in support of the content.
- 8.3 The Council's Monitoring Officer, Section 151 Officer and Strategic Director for Place have had the opportunity to input to this report.

## 9 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

<b>Contact person</b>	<i>Michael Rowan 01225 396811</i>
<b>Background papers</b>	<i>List here any background papers not included with this report, and where/how they are available for inspection.</i>
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	