



Agenda Item	Annual Increase in Allotment Rents		
Council/Committee	Environment and Planning Committee		
Meeting Date	13 September 2022	Report Writer	Alison Brown
Summary	To approve an increase in allotment rents from 1 October 2023 and establish a proposed methodology for future years.		
Strategic Priorities	Robust with resources		
Budget Codes and Costs	Cost Centre 402 Allotments & Community Orchard incorporating nominal codes 1060 Allotment Rents Manor Fields, 1061 Allotment Rents Larch Grove, 1062 Allotment Rents Newton Leys and 1063 Allotment Rents Orchardside.		
Environmental Implications	None pertaining to this report.		
Equality/Inclusion Implications	None pertaining to this report.		
Supporting Documentation (if any)	Costing Analysis and Income Forecasts		



Background

The Town Council has a total of 257 plots across four sites and the cost to the council is greater the income generated and is therefore a subsidised service, costing £9319 in 2022/23. The current charge of 30p per square meter was increased on 1 October 2021 from the previous charge of 25p per meter. The last increase was an ad-hoc increase to bring the charge to more sustainable levels and additionally remove the 25% discount for plot holders of state pensionable age.

Detailed Considerations

None.

Financial Implications

The provision of allotments will continue to be a subsidised service, however, with the exponential increase in inflation, the council needs to adopt a more strategic approach to mitigate the increasing costs. There are currently two main inflation indicators, the Retail Price Index (RPI) and the Consumer Price Index (CPI); the RPI is now considered more out of date, whilst the CPI is used as the basis for increases to state benefits and pensions.

Recommendation

The Town Council adopt a policy whereby, the allotments rents are increased every year on the 1 October on the basis of the published CPI from the previous July. The current rent of 30p per square meter will be increased by 8.8% to 33p per square meter from 1 October 2023.