

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

22nd JUNE 2016

REPORT OF HEAD OF CENTRAL SERVICES

THE CRESCENT ALLOTMENTS, TRANSFER MANAGEMENT TO ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To propose changes to the management of the allotments on The Crescent Melton Mowbray and seek Members approval to a new management agreement with the Allotment Society.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the Council enter into a ten year management agreement with The Crescent Allotment Society to transfer the management of the allotments at The Crescent Melton Mowbray to the Allotment Society with effect from 1st August 2016.**
- 2.2 **That the detailed terms of the agreement be drawn on similar terms to the existing agreement with the Victoria Street Allotment Society and that Members delegate agreement of detailed terms to the Head of Central Services in consultation with the Corporate Property Officer.**
- 2.3 **That officers continue to seek to enter into similar arrangements with the remaining three allotment sites that the Council manages, Lake Terrace Allotments, Redwood Allotments and Doctors Lane Allotments.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The allotments at The Crescent are currently managed directly by Melton Borough Council. There are 24 plots, some of which are let out as half plots, there are currently 33 tenants and when fully tenanted the allotments produce a gross income of £1,100 but overall the service is cost recovery.
- 3.2 The newly formed allotment society wish to take over direct management of the allotments, collect and keep the rentals to re-invest in the site ,allocate plots and deal with any maintenance and management issues. The savings generated in staff costs associated with collection of rents, allocation of plots and management of allotment holders far outweighs the income received for The Crescent Allotments. Officers will continue to encourage allotment societies and organisations to self-manage as internal resources reduce.
- 3.3 There is no statutory requirement for the Council to retain the management of these allotments and entering into the proposed agreement is seen as an appropriate way to pass this responsibility to the allotment users where

management and collection of rent will be far more efficient. The lease ensures that the Council retains long term control of the site.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no other Council owned allotments outside Melton Mowbray that are managed directly by the Council so transferring responsibility under the proposed agreement will be in line with policy elsewhere in the Borough. A similar agreement has been entered into for the management of the Victoria Street allotments there are no new policy or corporate implications.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 If members approve the transfer of the management of these allotments then there will be a saving in costs for managing and maintaining this site such as water rates and general management costs as these will pass to the society. The Allotment society will retain the rents, overall the transfer is expected to be cost neutral however there will be additional benefits in reducing staff time spent on the allotments which can be quite resource intensive.

5.2 Management at a local level on agreed guidelines is seen as the best way to manage this site for the benefit of all current and future allotment holders and local residents.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 A similar agreement to that which is in place for Victoria Street allotments (which is now due for renewal) is envisaged for The Crescent and the Chairman of The Crescent allotment society has been sent a copy of that agreement.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 None as a direct result of this report

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 None known as part of this report.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 Any risk associated with this report are outlined in the table below

L I K E L I H O O D	A	Very High				
	B	High				
	C	Significant				
	D	Low		1		
	E	Very Low				
	F	Almost Impossible				
			Negligible 1	Marginal 2	Critical 3	Catastrophic 4

IMPACT

Risk No	Risk Description
1	Transfer to allotment society is not approved by Members leading to continuation of a resource intensive service.

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 The promotion of allotments and homegrown produce clearly has beneficial effects on the reduction of 'food miles' and therefore makes a positive contribution to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 The Allotment holders have all been consulted and were invited to a meeting with officers to discuss the implications for the changes. Management team were also consulted on the proposals.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 Egerton Ward

Contact Officer: David Blanchard

Date: June 2016

Background Papers: None

Reference: X: Committees/CSA/22.06.2016