

	Meeting (No)	Community & Environment (11)
	Date	13 February 2024
	Document	Ref No
	Allotment Sites	CE11/123a

We currently have issues with clearing two vacant allotment plots. Getting a contractor to clear these plots in one go has proved prohibitively expensive and so the next best solution will be to work more slowly on clearing one plot and then the next, possibly spreading the cost over two financial years. The delegated authority recommended in agenda item 123c will enable officers to ensure that the necessary work is completed in an affordable manner.

When we assign an allotment plot, we do so on the understanding that the tenant will work consistently to cultivate the space. We are finding, however, that in some circumstances the enthusiasm dwindles rapidly and plots are left to become overgrown and then we have to issue a notice to quit and the cycle repeats. In order to address this, it is recommended that we include a three-month probationary period to the Allotments Policy. This is common practice in many local authority areas and will enable us to swiftly remove tenants before there is too much deterioration in the condition of the plot.

Now that I have a colleague to help with inspections, it is recommended that we increase their frequency and issue notices to improve at an early stage. We will write to all tenants to explain this change in inspection regime and ask them to take it into account when deciding whether to renew their tenancy in March.

As we have a lengthy waiting list, it is hoped that the above will enable us to swiftly remove tenants who are not fully utilising or caring for their plots and reassign to residents waiting for an allotment.

Audrey Duncan
Community & Environment Manager