

REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - 27 OCTOBER 2014

REPORT ON: IMPROVEMENTS TO ANCRUM ROAD ALLOTMENTS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

REPORT NO: 406-2014

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek committee approval for the provision of community allotment garden and improvements to the site layout and security at Ancrum Road Allotments.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve the proposed improvements and instruct the Director of Environment to undertake these works.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Director of Corporate Services advised that the costs of £29,725 for undertaking the proposed improvements can be met from allowances within the Capital Plan 2014/15 – Open Space Allotment Security.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 Reference is made to Report 195-2013 to the Environment Committee of 20 May 2013 that approved the development of community allotment garden pilot projects in Kirkton, Douglas and Lochee. Work has been completed on the construction of a community allotment site in Douglas and an officer has been appointed to coordinate the pilot projects.
- 4.2 Following consultation with community organisations, interest has been shown by a local gardening group in Lochee to create a small community allotment garden within Ancrum Road Allotments, on ground which is not suitable for traditional allotment plots. The proposals involve the provision of raised planters together with a basic shed and path infrastructure.
- 4.3 A survey has been undertaken with plot holders at Ancrum Road Allotments which identified the needs for improvements to the allotment site, including the improvements to boundary security, sheds and greenhouses and a reduction in some plot sizes.
- 4.4 It is now proposed to undertake the various minor improvements identified together with the specific works required to accommodate the new community allotment garden project. It is also proposed to divide some of the larger harder to maintain plots into half plots, allowing more plots to be let and increasing activity within the allotments.
- 4.4 To reduce the Department's future maintenance costs on the sheds and greenhouses currently leased to the existing plot holders. It is proposed that the sheds and greenhouses will be brought up to a standard and then allocated to the plot holders, who if they wish to retain them, will take on all responsibility for their future maintenance.

4.5 The cost of the various elements of works are noted as follows:

Security Improvements	£16,000
Creation of the community allotment garden	£9,925
Alterations to Plots and Improvements to Building	£3,800
Total Cost	£29,725

4.5 Further consultation will take place with the Ancrum Road plot holders and the local gardening group prior to the implementation and creation of the community allotment garden.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted and are in agreement with the content of this report.

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Ken Laing
Director of Environment

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Gary Robertson
Head of Environmental Management

Date 9th October 2014