

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This should be carried out during the development stage of a new project, strategy, policy or service or when you are reviewing an existing project, strategy, policy or service.

By understanding and meeting people’s differing needs we can provide more effective services.

Name and brief description of project, strategy, policy or service being assessed

The provision of Allotments is a statutory function under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908.

The Council provides 14 allotment sites around the District containing a total of 290 plots, with all sites being fully tenanted. The demand for allotments remains high with a further 173 potential tenants currently on the waiting lists. Over the past few years, a programme of improvements has been delivered by the Council which has seen the infrastructure of sites improved including new fencing and installation of water supplies at all sites. The latter has resulted in increased costs to the Council from annual maintenance charges.

The service meets the requirements of the council’s corporate priorities (2012 – 2016):

- Place: Protecting our environment.
- People: Promoting safe and healthy living
- Performance: Providing value for money

Current Position:

Allotment plots are let at an annual rent of 26p per square metre which generates total income of £8,600 per annum.

A half-size plot (126 sq mts) currently costs £32.76 per year and a full-size plot (253 sq mts) costs £65.78.

Proposal:

Increase the annual rental for allotments to 40p per sq mt - i.e. a half -size plot to £50.40 (+£17.64) per annum and a full-size plot to £101.20 per annum (+£ 35.42).

Information used to analyse the impact on people affected by the project, strategy, policy or service

State who will be affected, the relevant information you are using to assess how it will affect them, note any relevant consultation, surveys, etc.

All existing tenants will be affected by an increase in fees when the annual rental invoices are sent in August 2014 – new tenants taking on plots on or after 1st April 2014 will be charged at the new rate right away.

It is considered that the increase is modest and affordable to most tenants and is broadly comparable with fees charged by other Local Authorities elsewhere in Essex

Customer resistance to the increased charge may result in some tenants terminating their agreement. However vacant plots can be filled by those on the waiting list with no loss of income on the basis that the increased charges still represent very good value for money.

Advance notice of the increase was posted out to all tenants in December 2013 asking for customer feedback on the proposal and the allotment service overall.

Use the information above to assess the impact of your project, policy, strategy or service on people from the following protected groups: (these are defined by the Equality Act 2010)

Protected Group		Positive Impact/ Benefit	Negative Impact/ Disadvantage	Explanation – State how
Age	Children 0-16	n/a	No	
	Young People 17-25	n/a	No	
	Ages 26-59	n/a	No	
	Older People 60+	n/a	No	
Disability Include disabled people and/or	Blind/Partially Sighted	n/a	No	
	Deaf/Hearing Impaired	n/a	No	
	Wheelchair user/mobility difficulties	n/a	No	

carers	Learning Difficulties	n/a	No	
	Mental Health Difficulties	n/a	No	
Gender	Men	n/a	No	
	Women	n/a	No	
	Transgender	n/a	No	
	Pregnancy & Maternity impact	n/a	No	
	Marriage & Civil Partnership	n/a	No	
Race	White	n/a	No	
	Asian	n/a	No	
	Black	n/a	No	
	Mixed Dual Heritage	n/a	No	
Religion/Belief	Buddhist	n/a	No	
	Christian	n/a	No	
	Hindu	n/a	No	
	Jewish	n/a	No	
	Muslim	n/a	No	
	Sikh	n/a	No	
	Other – please specify	n/a	No	
Sexual Orientation	Lesbian	n/a	No	
	Gay men			
	Heterosexual			
	Bi-sexual			
Other (optional)	Use to define Impact on any groups specific to this Strategy, Policy or Function not listed above.			

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If you identified any negative impacts above then either:

(a) Your proposal, policy or service is treating people from a protected group above less favourably because of their age, disability, gender, race, religion, or sexual orientation

or

(b) Your proposal, policy or service is intended to treat everyone equally but, unintentionally, people from a protected group above can be particularly disadvantaged or treated less favorably than other others

PLEASE TICK WHICHEVER APPLIES

If you ticked (a) this is direct discrimination, which is illegal and you cannot proceed

If you ticked (b):

- 1. Can any negative impacts be minimized or removed? If so state what changes you will make.**
2. If you cannot minimize or remove negative impacts they must be justified and you must state your justification

If you identified any positive impacts is there anything further you can do to increase or extend the positive benefits? If so state what changes you will make

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Completed By:	Nick Day	Approved By (Senior Manager)
Service:	Parks & Open Spaces	Date: 16 January 2014

**Each service should retain the signed copy of the Assessment.
An electronic copy should be sent to angve@braintree.gov.uk for publication on the Council's website – this is a requirement to ensure that we meet our statutory duties under the Equality Act 2010.**