

## Allotment Fees and Charges

## Appendix 6

### Introduction

Allotments provision is a discretionary service and pricing has been set based on historical practice (format set 20 years ago). Although the Service has previously proposed significant increases (up to three times of current charges) such an increase has not supported/implemented.

The table below is an analysis of current projected income and expenditure for 2010-11.

	<b>2010-11 Projected Outturn £'000</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Allotment income Land	40
Water	28.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>68.9</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Employee administration costs	22.9
Tree Officers	20.0
Supplies and services	13.3
General repairs & maintenance	7.0
Water charges	20.9
Capital charges	<u>6.4</u>
	90.5
<b>Net surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>(21.6)</b>

The service is currently showing a projected deficit for the year of some £22k which is currently reflected in the Parks subsidy. A 40% increase applying to the land charges (i.e. excluding water) will yield an increase in income of approx £16k, with a further £6k coming from a proposed 100% increase from out of borough allotment holders.

The average size of a plot is 5 poles (125square meters). Thus the proposed increase will represent an additional cost to a plot holder (who do not receive a discount) of £9.35 per annum, and £22.75 for out-of-borough allotment holders.

These increases have been discussed with the Cabinet member who is supportive of the proposals.

**Summary of pricing proposal  
(including discounts and concessions)**

	<b>Current charge inc. VAT where applicable  2010-11</b>	<b>Revised charge inc. VAT where applicable  2011-12</b>	<b>%age increase</b>
<b>ALLOTMENT CHARGES</b>			
Per pole			
Full price (£)	4.55	6.35	39.56%
Pension/Disabled concession	60% Discount	50% Discount	
Activecard concession	25% Discount	0% Discount	
Out of Borough Resident	4.55	9.10	100%
Water charge per 25 sq mtr per year (£)	2.68	2.75	2.50%
<b>Total proposed charge per pole</b>	<b>7.23</b>	<b>9.10</b>	<b>25.82%</b>
<b>Average allotment charge (excluding concessions)</b>	<b>36.15</b>	<b>45.50</b>	<b>£9.35</b>

Allotment rents and water use are charged annually based on the size of the allotment plot.

Currently, pensioners and disabled users are eligible for a 60% discount whilst a smaller discount of 25% is offered to Active card holders.

It is proposed to change this to 50% for pensioners and disabled users only.

There are currently some 900 people on the waiting list for an allotment plot.

**Methods of payment**

Currently allotment bills are posted in autumn (November) to all allotment tenants, however it is proposed to seek email contacts from tenants to send out bills electronically in the future. The option for on-line payments is also being explored through the Corporate Finance e-payments project.