

REPORT FROM: CORPORATE DIRECTOR

TO: EXECUTIVE

DATE: 17th MARCH 2016

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COLNE ALLOTMENTS

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To consider a request from Colne Town Council for the transfer to it of the non-statutory allotments in Colne which it currently manages.

RECOMMENDATION

That the non-statutory allotments listed in paragraph 8 below be transferred to Colne Town Council.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

To support the Town Council in providing this local service.

1. Where a parish or town council exists then by law it, instead of the Borough Council, is the statutory allotments authority.
2. In Colne there are no statutory allotments. However there are a number of pieces of land originally bought under the Housing Acts and other Acts which for many years have been used as informal allotments. These are:

Alkincoats (incl. Foot and West)
Bunkers Hill
Knotts Lane
South Valley
Basil Street
Broken Banks
Granville Street
Oxford Street/Townley Street
High Garth
Cookhouse
Temple Street

Montague Street
Carr Road
Castle Road
Intake
White Grove

3. In 2009 the Executive agreed to a request from the Town Council that it take over responsibility for their management.
4. This has proved to be a successful arrangement. The Town Council, through local community involvement, has brought about overall improvement in their usage and in the surrounding environment.
5. More recently the Town Council has also developed two more allotment sites on Pendle Council land at River Street and Sutherland Street.
6. The Town Council has now requested that Pendle transfers the sites to it. It feels that ownership, as opposed to the existing management arrangement, would enable it to invest in them further. The request is supported by the Colne and District Committee.
7. An exercise has been undertaken to check whether any of the sites would be needed for other purposes by Pendle Council. The only one is Bunkers Hill which, together with adjacent land, is required for housing development.
8. The request recognises current reality and the Executive is therefore recommended to agree to the transfer of the following sites to the Town Council:

Alkincoats (incl. Foot and West)
Knotts Lane
South Valley
Basil Street
Broken Banks
Granville Street
Oxford Street/Townley Street
High Garth
Cookhouse
Temple Street
Montague Street
Carr Road
Castle Road
Intake
White Grove
River Street
Sutherland Street

9. As with recent transfers of other facilities to parish and town councils it is recommended that a covenant be included that they may not be sold for a non-community use within 10 years.
10. The attached schedule shows the current asset valuations of the sites for information.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy:

The Council has a general objective of supporting town and parish councils and of enabling them to carry out functions of a local nature.

Financial:	Under the current management arrangement the Town Council retains the rental income. The Borough Council does not incur expenditure on the sites.
Legal:	These are as explained above.
Risk Management:	None arising from the report
Health and Safety:	None arising from the report
Sustainability:	None arising from the report
Community Safety:	None arising from the report
Equality and Diversity:	None arising from the report

Appendix

Colne Allotments – Values List