



HYNDBURN

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Record of Executive Decision made by an Officer

Date of decision	28.01.2013
Issue	Introduction of a reasonable level of increase for rent charges for Council allotments and to change the mechanism by which water charges are applied.
Summary	The Council has not increased allotment rents since 2006. Although proposals for significant increases in allotment rent charges were tabled in December 2011, that proposal attracted a significant level of objection and was not implemented. Since April 2012, the allotments service has been delivered by the Planning and Transportation Service and officers have worked with the Portfolio Holder and stakeholders to develop the alternative rental options as proposed in the report to Cabinet 9 th January 2013.
Decision-taker	Councillor Miles Parkinson, leader of the Council.
Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Change the mechanism by which mains water charges are applied, as detailed in Section 5 of the report to Cabinet 9th January 20132. Introduce the proposed charges, allowing for statutory notification requirements, as noted in Section 6 of the report to Cabinet 9th January 20133. In consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to issue new tenancies.
Reasons for decision	Allotment rents had not been increased since

	<p>2006. The proposals in the report represented a reasonable level of increase at this time, balancing all the relevant considerations, including responses on what would be considered reasonable by tenants, comparison with other recreational activities and amounts which remained at the lowest end of charges in the North West. The comparatively modest increase, together with no increase for some tenants, reflected affordability and the social benefits of the allotment resource.</p>
<p>Alternative options considered and reasons for rejection</p>	<p>Several derivations of alternative pricing options have been considered. The proposed price increases represent a reasonable level of increase that has attracted support.</p> <p>No change. There is a continued need for the Council to invest in allotments and the proposed increases will help provide a sustainable allotments service. The allotment rent had not been reviewed for many years and there was a need to ensure that a reasonable tariff is charged for the service.</p>
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