

**NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**ALLOTMENTS (WATER CHARGES)  
TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

**REVIEW SCOPE**

**1 PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES OF THE REVIEW**

**Purpose**

To investigate the proposed water charges for allotment holders within the borough and to link the review to the Council's corporate priorities.

**Objectives**

- Fairness in cost in relation to the size of the allotment
- Leakage issues
- Conservation of water issues
- Whether water charges were included previously in allotment rent.

**2 POTENTIAL OUTCOMES**

- A fair, comparable and acceptable charge for water usage.
- Possible recommendations for further work regarding the Council's overall Allotment Strategy

**3 INFORMATION REQUIRED**

- Northampton Borough Council's water charges and those of comparable Local Authorities
- Calculations regarding allotment and water charges (provided by the Northampton Allotment Network)
- Details of allotment sites and allotment sizes within the borough
- Details of allotment rental charges and comparable data from other Local Authorities
- How Northampton Borough Council is billed for water usage by Anglian Water
- Identify the water charge as either business or domestic
- Water usage for individual allotment sites in the borough

**4 FORMAT OF INFORMATION**

- Baseline Data
- Officer reports/presentations: -  
Details of allotment sites within the borough  
Cost of allotment sites with comparable allotment sites

- Benchmark charges with other Local Authorities)
- Witness Interview with the Portfolio Holder
- Details of allotment sites within the borough

## **5 METHODS USED**

- Minutes of the meetings
- Checklist for site visits
- Views of allotment holders
- Desktop research/ web based
- Alternative(s) to water on allotment sites
- Details from privately owned allotment sites regarding water usage

## **6 CO-OPTION TO THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

### **Suggestions:**

- Mr Barry Oliver - Northampton Allotment Network
- Mr Tony Care - Northampton Allotment Network
- Northampton Allotment Council to be asked to nominate a member to be a co-optee of this Task and Finish Group

## **7 EVIDENCE GATHERING TIMETABLE**

July to September 2006

20 July	Scope the review
mid August	Site visits
21 August	Evidence gathering
7 September	Evidence gathering
22 September	Finalise Chair's final report

## **8 RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS**

Lead Officer	Carl Grimmer
Co-Ordinator	Tracy Tiff

## **9 RESOURCES AND BUDGET**

Possible expert evidence to the meeting scheduled for 7 September 2006

## **10 FINAL REPORT**

Completed by September 2006. Presented by the Chair of the Task and Finish Group to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet.

## **11 MONITORING PROCESS**