

Officer Non Key Executive Decision

Relevant Chief Officer (Decision Maker):	John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services
Relevant Cabinet Member (for consultation purposes):	Councillor Jane Hugo, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment
Report Author (Officer name and title):	Lisa Arnold, Assistant Director of Community and Environmental Services
Implementation Date of Decision:	23 February 2023

ALLOTMENT SELF-MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the current position in relation to The Blackpool Federation of Allotment Associations management of a number of sites.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To agree to formally withdraw from the existing self-management agreement with The Blackpool Federation of Allotment Associations;
- 2.2 To enter in to self-management agreements with the individual allotment sites;
- 2.3 To authorise the Head of Legal Services to enter into any agreements as necessary, including the servicing of any required notices.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 As a result of entering in to the original self-management agreement, the council reduced its resources in relation to the management of the allotment sites.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

This is considered to be the best way forward in terms of ownership and responsibility being with the users and is working well at a number of allotment sites.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is

- “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

5.0 Background Information

5.1 On 9th March 2012 a Cabinet Member dECISION was agreed to transfer the management of a number of allotment sites within the borough to The Blackpool Federation of Allotment Associations.

5.2 The agreement was formally entered in to for a letting period of 25 years, which commenced on 6th April 2012.

5.3 Since the agreement, the council has had limited involvement in the allotment sites, with very few issues or complaints raised over the years.

5.4 However, as a result of the covid pandemic The Blackpool Federation of Allotment Associations’ ability to operate and effectively communicate has been impacted and more recently as a result of unfortunate circumstances, the Trustees are no longer able to fulfil their obligations under the self-management agreement.

5.5 As a result of these circumstances, it has resulted in the need to consider The Blackpool Federation of Allotment Associations’ position, as in effect it is no longer operating.

5.6 Therefore, consultation has taken place with the individual sites as to whether they want to enter in to a self-management agreement directly with the council in relation to their allotment sites.

5.7 These discussions with the sites have been very positive, with feedback that they would like to self-manage their allotment sites and are entering in to consultation with their members.

5.8 In light of this it is proposed that we formally withdraw from the self-management agreement with The Blackpool Federation of Allotment Association’s and enter in to self-management agreements with the individual sites.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 Ensuring that the existing self-management agreement is terminated in line with the provisions contained within it and any new agreements entered into are fit for purpose and appropriately executed.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 The council have considered its public sector equality duty in making this decision.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 No adverse impact.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 Risks mitigated by individual self-management agreements.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 The self-management agreement requires the individual allotment sites to operate fairly and equitably.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Consultation with the individual allotment sites involved.

13.0 Decision of Chief Officer

13.1 To agree to formally withdraw from the existing self-management agreement with The Blackpool Federation of Allotment Associations;

To enter in to self-management agreements with the individual allotment sites;

To authorise the Head of Legal Services to enter into any agreements as necessary, including the servicing of any required notices.

14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer

14.1 As a result of entering in to the original self-management agreement, the council reduced its resources in relation to the management of the allotment sites.