

Who ... allotments ?

- Who are the parties to the agreement?
- What is the term of the agreement?
- What are the conditions for early termination?
- What are the implications of early termination on externally accessed funds?
- What are the procedures for amendment?
- Who has responsibility for day-to-day administration?
- Who determines rent levels?
- What is the basis for determining rent levels?
- What are the limits on rent levels?
- What concessions exist?
- Who defines concessionaries?
- Who collects rents?
- Who spends the revenue income from rents and how?
- Is there a right to charge a membership subscription?
- Who determines the membership subscription?
- What use and other fees can be charged?
- Who determines use and other fees?
- Who pays utility charges (eg. Water and electricity)?
- Who sets restrictions on utility use?
- Who pays/organises utility maintenance?
- Who pays/organises utility improvements?
- Who manages lettings?
- What are the conditions for offering tenancies and how are they determined [eg. equal opportunities]?
- What is the content of tenancy agreement and how can it be varied?
- Who maintains the register of tenants?
- Who has access to the register of tenants?
- Who maintains the record of rent income?
- Who has access to the record of rent income?
- Who maintains the record of expenditure on site management?
- Who has access to the record of expenditure on site management?
- Who is responsible for setting the standards of cultivation and compliance?
- Who is responsible for controlling the standards of cultivation and compliance?
- Who serves notices of non-compliance?
- Who determines whether the terms of the notice have been met?
- Who serves any notice to quit?
- Who undertakes any legal procedures required to enforce a notice to quit?
- Who maintains the waiting list?
- What data are recorded on the waiting list?
- Who is responsible for undertaking major maintenance tasks?
- Who is responsible for informing the council when tasks falling within the council's maintenance duties arise?
- Who gives consent for structures?
- What are the constraints on structures (size, design, type, materials etc)?
- What are the reporting requirements to the council (eg accounts, general report, frequency)?
- What is the council's contribution to the society's expenses?
- Who is responsible for physical site security (fences, gates etc)?

- What expenditure limits exist for physical site security (fences, gates etc) ?
- Who provides tenancy agreement and other stationary?
- Who sprays or covers vacant plots to prevent weed growth?
- Who provides/maintains mowers and strimmers?
- Who provides/maintains rotovators etc?
- Who provides/maintains the equipment shed?
- What are the rights of re-entry by the council for inspections/repairs?
- Who bears the liability for damages consequent to re-entry by the council for inspections/repairs?
- Who bears the responsibility for insurance?
- What items are to be insured (eg. public liability, equipment shed)?
- What memberships are required of relevant bodies (eg NSALG)?
- What are the terms of the society's constitution?
- Who will act as arbiter in disputes between the society and ploholders?
- Who will act as arbiter in disputes between the society and local residents?
- Who will act as arbiter in disputes between the society and the council?
- Who risk assesses activities on the site?
- Who carries out environmental impact assessment on the site?

REPORT TO THE CULTURE, ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT BOARD ON THE POTENTIAL FOR THE DEVOLVED MANAGEMENT OF CITY COUNCIL ALLOTMENT SITES.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform members of the matters associated with the potential of devolving the management of allotment sites.

2. BACKGROUND

This Scrutiny Board has asked for a report on the potential possibility of some of the City Councils Allotment sites becoming self-managed.

According to the Government's Select Committee report *The Future For Allotments*¹ cited in QED "There is little doubt that, when successfully implemented, self-management schemes ensure greater control of a site by allotment holders and tend to work to the benefit of the site". The Report recommended, "that all local authorities examine the potential for self-management of their allotment sites" and noted the comment made by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Environment in her oral evidence, that "self-management at that very local level is almost always a good idea". The Report also recommended, "that the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions should draw up an appropriate model agreement that can be used by local authorities formally to devolve responsibilities to allotment societies". The Government came to the view in its Response that "arrangements for devolution to allotment societies is best determined at a local level according to local circumstances".

Allotment tenants have already had to organise themselves to answer many of these questions as well as the real-life challenges of vandalism and ignorance.

The list of unanswered questions overleaf is part of the response, which ignores the dozen or more workers and six-figure sums which the community sector has invested in allotments.

The only relevant question for tenants is the management of lettings

According to figures in the same response,
81 % of Sheffield's allotments are tenanted...(???)

So there are at least 2600 allotmenters.
Surely they are the best chance of
answering the questions.

And allotments cost the ratepayer 11p a year!