

## 7.4 Report Purpose: Review of allotment charges

**Author: Assistant Town Clerk**

### Background

Macclesfield Town Council took ownership of and assumed management of three allotment sites in 2020; Knowsley Road, Springfield Road and Park Grove. We raised the prices in December 2021 to 20p a square metre. We do not currently charge an admin fee.

It is good practice to routinely review allotment charges to ensure that they are in keeping with others in the area.

Any significant changes require 12 months' notice so if any price increase is recommended, we would write to all tenants in April to give them 12 months' notice ahead of the following financial year.

Section 10 of the Allotments Act 1950 requires that rent on statutory sites (owned by the local authority and not viewed as temporary use of the land) must be set at a reasonable level. When considering what is reasonable, you would need to look at other sites in the area.

In the table below, I have included information from local sites.

Site	Price per square metre	Do they include admin charge?	Reduction for pensioners
<b>Macclesfield Town Council</b>	<b>£0.20</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>50%</b>
Biddulph Town Council	£0.26	None	None
Sparkallot (South Park)	£0.26	None	None
Wilmslow Town Council	£0.21	£15 annual charge	None
Brookfield Lane Allotments	£0.20	£14 annual charge on top of rent £25 deposit for new tenants refunded after a year	50% on plot charges but full price admin fee
Moss Lane allotments	£0.20	£4.50 annual charge	25% for pensioners
Broken Cross allotments	£0.29	£5.00 annual charge for insurance	50% for pensioners

### Conclusion

According to the research undertaken, our three allotment sites remain the most affordable in the area. In the light of the cost-of-living crisis and keeping costs reasonably low to allow people to access allotments as outdoor spaces and a site for growing and cultivating their own produce, it may be appropriate to keep the charges the same and review again in 12 months time.

**Recommendation**

Keep the costs the same. 20p a square metre.

**END OF REPORT**