

# Public Document Pack

**Date of meeting** Thursday, 13th December, 2012  
**Time** 7.00 pm  
**Venue** Civic Offices, Merrial Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs ST5 2AG  
**Contact** Louise Stevenson ext 2250

## **Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

### **AGENDA**

#### **PART 1– OPEN AGENDA**

- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Declarations of Interest**
- 3 MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 4)**  
To agree as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2012.
- 4 SPORTS DEVELOPMENT (Pages 5 - 12)**  
To consider current sports development activity within Newcastle Borough, with the opportunity for questions and suggestions from members of the Committee.
- 5 ALLOTMENTS SERVICE REVIEW (Pages 13 - 20)**  
To consider an issues and options report approved by Cabinet on 14 November 2012 regarding an allotments service review. All three of the recommendations on the report were approved.  
  
It was requested that the Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertake a review of the issues identified, with particular reference to local management, meeting demand and reducing the current and future costs.
- 6 WORK PLAN (Pages 21 - 22)**  
To discuss and update the work plans to reflect current scrutiny topics.
- 7 URGENT BUSINESS**  
To consider any business which is urgent within the meaning of Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

**Members:** Councillors Bailey, Bannister, Cairns (Chair), Cooper, Mrs Cornes,

Mrs Heesom, Holland, Lawton, Miss Olszewski, Plant, Miss Walklate (Vice-Chair), Mrs Williams and Mrs Winfield

**'Members of the Council: If you identify any personal training / development requirements from the items included in this agenda or through issues raised during the meeting, please bring them to the attention of the Committee Clerk at the close of the meeting'**

Officers will be in attendance prior to the meeting for informal discussions on agenda items.

# Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

## ACTIVE AND COHESIVE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 6th September, 2012

**Present:-** Councillor George Cairns – in the Chair

Councillors Bailey, Cooper, Mrs Cornes, Holland, Lawton, Miss Olszewski, Plant, Miss Walklate, Mrs Williams and Mrs Winfield

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Bannister and Councillor Heesom.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2012 be agreed as a correct record with the addition of Councillor Mrs Cornes' apologies.

### 4. BATESWOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

The Committee considered a report advising of the working group recommendations regarding requests from the community for additional bridle route provision and use of part of the main pool for fishing in Bateswood Local Nature Reserve.

Members of the working group considered the recommendations excellent. The work undertaken by the working group had been good, and in particular the site visit to Bateswood had been informative. Members not on the working group also considered that the recommendations in the report were the best outcome that could be achieved from the process. However, it was noted that people who were not local might express an interest in managing fishing on the main pool and the Committee agreed that a local club should manage fishing on the main pool.

**RESOLVED:** (a) That the information be received.

(b) That the working group recommendations be put forward for Cabinet to consider.

### 5. WORK PLAN

The Committee considered the work plan. Third Sector Commissioning was discussed, as a document had been distributed by the Leader regarding Newcastle Citizens Advice Bureau and there was concern regarding the funding that the CAB had got for Newcastle, in particular funding for the Coalfield Alliance mining wards. It was understood by Members that there was a different pot of money for general work which was what was being commissioned for, and money from coalfield regeneration would not go into that pot; money for mining villages would remain for them. Members noted that the Committee had been positive with regard to commissioning at the previous meeting. This was agreed but it had been emphasised that the needs

of Borough residents must be given priority. Members felt that professional advice from Officers was required and an assurance was requested that money for coalfield regeneration would go to mining villages and not into a collective pot at Staffordshire County Council.

The Health and Well Being Strategy remained with the Health Scrutiny Committee. There was a small working group at Staffordshire County Council that the Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee had attended, and the issue would be received at a special meeting of Cabinet. There was a request that the Committee be kept informed of developments.

Officers were investigating a number of models for leisure trust options. Members were advised that officers were investigating the feasibility of a Community Interest Company (C.I.C.) on the basis that it was thought that this would not only provide an appropriate governance structure but also could reduce business rate obligations.

Members noted it was almost twelve months since Cabinet had resolved that a review of the allotments service should be conducted, and requested a progress report. This would be distributed to Members before the next meeting, and the review would be considered at the December meeting.

The Committee received an update regarding Kidsgrove Sports Centre. The building was expected to be handed back from Staffordshire County Council imminently and was expected to be open to the public towards the end of September or early October. The majority of works were complete, but other problems had been found, and it was estimated that approximately £250,000 had been spent compared to the £100,000 that had been envisaged. The pumps and filters for the swimming pool would need to be serviced as they had not been used for twelve months. Due to the condition of the building, more unexpected closures in the future could not be ruled out. A comprehensive refurbishment would cost around £3-3.5 million, for which there was no funding available. Instead, the refurbishment could be broken down into component parts and funding sought for each part. For example, the windows in the pool hall could be replaced or the changing rooms could be refurbished. Securing funding for refurbishment would be the responsibility of all three parties associated with the sports centre: Clough Hall School, Staffordshire County Council and the Borough Council. The school and the County Council were responsible for maintenance and the Borough Council was responsible for the operation of the centre.

Members were concerned that fixing problems such as windows could be a sticking plaster for structural problems. The building opened in the early 1970s and Officers were not aware of any structural concerns. Members were of the opinion that the Borough Council and the school fell down by not pushing the County Council enough to get the works done and that a structure was required to get any future problems dealt with. Officers advised that the school made a conscious decision to withdraw from the County Councils maintenance service and go it alone some years ago. Members noted an entry on the work plan that a guarantee be sought from the County Council to conduct regular maintenance checks in the future, and stressed that the County Council must be asked to conduct a very thorough inspection.

Members noted that Clough Hall School had made it through the first round of applications for Private Finance Initiative (PFI) funding and questioned whether a swimming pool would be incorporated into the design if the school was rebuilt. It would be unlikely for there to be a new school development for at least eight years, should the school make it through the other stages, and it would be unlikely that a

sports centre would be a part of a PFI. Members felt that this should be kept under scrutiny as money could be spent refurbishing the sports centre, for a new centre to then be built.

The Committee considered the Chair's suggestion for a new scrutiny topic of sports development within the Borough. The Olympics had ignited an interest in sport and there were a lot of talented sports people within the Borough. Both adults and children were becoming involved in sport and it was important to get coaches involved in coaching youngsters.

Previously, there had been a School of Sports between the Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council and it was questioned whether this could be re-established. Funding would be an issue, and Members felt it would be best to begin with the idea that there was no money available. Officers advised there would be restrictions due to the limited resource available at the Council and how a School of Sports would be funded required careful thought. Members considered the main cost would be funding coaches, but that the Committee members would have contacts with local clubs that could be utilised. Sports venues within the Borough could be contacted to see if they would be interested in becoming involved and it was considered that minority sport organisations may be more inclined to fund and support sporting initiatives. Members considered that multi-use grounds should also be explored as they would be of low or perhaps even zero cost. Members also considered that the focus should not solely be on talented children, as some winning British athletes at the Olympics had taken up their sports as adults. The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure considered it an excellent idea, although it would be a lot of work.

Members raised 'Tennis for Free' which provided funding for court repairs and coaching. Officers concurred that this was a good organisation and they would push them again as they had received a mixed response previously. Officers highlighted that it was free to play tennis on a lot of Borough courts. Members questioned where Newcastle Athletic Club and Newcastle Swimming Club obtained their funding and it was understood to be from subscriptions. Both clubs did well and the amateur swimming at Jubilee 2 was worthy of note.

The Committee agreed that a scrutiny brief would be developed for the next meeting which would include how sports development could proceed, who the Committee would like to get involved and to set the parameters of what the Committee would like to achieve. Members considered that sports development should be Staffordshire based rather than Newcastle based. The members of the Committee would speak to their local sporting clubs.

**RESOLVED:** (a) That an assurance be obtained that money for coalfield regeneration would remain for mining villages.

(b) That a progress report be provided for the Allotments Review and that the Allotments Review be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

(c) That Staffordshire County Council be asked to conduct a thorough inspection of Kidsgrove Sports Centre.

(d) That a scrutiny brief for sports development be provided at the next meeting of the Committee.

**6. URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business considered.

**COUNCILLOR GEORGE CAIRNS**  
**Chair**

## **Current Sports Development Activity** **Within Newcastle Borough**

The following details the current activities for sports development in Newcastle Borough.

### **Club Development**

The following are clubs accredited to Clubmark, a Sport England standard. Sport England recognises and values the commitment made by sports clubs to develop high quality, welcoming environments for young participants. The development of clubs that encourage young people to take-up sport, improve their talents, possibly play a leadership role and give them the option to initiate and maintain life-long participation in sport is an essential part of supporting the sporting infrastructure in England. Clubmark was introduced in 2002 by Sport England to ensure that accrediting partners apply core common criteria to ensure that consistent good practice and minimum operating standards are delivered through all club development and accreditation schemes. Also, to empower parent(s)/carer(s) when choosing a club for their children, to ensure that Clubmark accredited clubs are recognised through a common approach to branding and to provide a focus around which all organisations involved in sport can come together to support good practice in sports clubs working with children and young people.

Clubmark accreditation is awarded to clubs that comply with minimum operating standards in four areas: the playing programme, duty of care and safeguarding and protecting children and young people, knowing your club and its community and club management.

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Name of Club</b>	<b>Type of Accreditation</b>
Cricket	Audley Cricket Club	Clubmark
Football	Audley FC	Charter Standard Club
Tennis	Basford Lawn Tennis Club	Clubmark
Football	Betley FC	Charter Standard Club
Cricket	Bignall End CC	Clubmark
Football	Bradwell Belles FC	Charter Standard Club
Football	Bradwell Bombers FC	Charter Standard Club
Football	Chesterton AFC	Charter Standard Adult
Badminton	Dominies Badminton Club	Clubmark / Premier Club
Football	Keele University FC	Charter Standard Adult
Football	Kidsgrove Athletic FC	Charter Standard Adult
Cricket	Kidsgrove CC	Clubmark

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Name of Club</b>	<b>Type of Accreditation</b>
Cricket	Leycett Cricket Club	Clubmark
Cycling	Lyme Racing Club	Clubmark / Go-ride
Football	Madeley White Star Centenary FC	Charter Standard Club
Football	Madeley White Star Ladies FC	Charter Standard Adult
Cricket	Newcastle & Hartshill CC	Clubmark
Rugby Union	Newcastle (Staffs) Rugby Union Club	Clubmark / Seal of Approval
Swimming	Newcastle (Staffs) Swimming Club	Clubmark / swim21 Competitive
Volleyball	Newcastle (Staffs) Volleyball Club	Clubmark
Athletics	Newcastle Staffs Athletics Club	Clubmark
Football	Newcastle Town FC	Charter Standard Community
Netball	Newcastle Town Netball Club	Clubmark / CAPS Gold
Cycling	Newcastle Track Cycling Association	Clubmark
Cricket	Porthill Park Cricket Club	Clubmark
Football	Red Street FC	Charter Standard Club
Football	Redgate Clayton FC	Charter Standard Adult
Cricket	Silverdale CC	Clubmark
Football	Wolstanton United FC	Charter Standard Club
Cricket	Wood Lane CC	Clubmark
Snowsport	North Staffs Ski Club	Clubmark

## **Sports Makers**

Sport Makers, quite simply, make sport happen. Some do it informally with their friends, neighbours or colleagues. They might organise a kickabout with their mates or a weekly game of tennis with their work colleagues, who must be aged 16. Others don't take part themselves. Instead, they do all the other things that make sport possible, like organising a sports event for their village or managing a team of race volunteers.

Becoming a Sport Maker will give people the knowledge, information and connections to help you make sport happen.

Newcastle Borough Council is:

- Currently working with the County Sports Partnership to refer interested volunteers to join up to Sports Makers.
- Clubs and organisations within the Borough offer placements for volunteers to gain their 10 hours experience.



## **Volunteers**

Newcastle Borough Council is:

- Offering volunteering placements within the Community Recreation Department and centre based.
- Working with Staffs County Council Open Doors Project to have people on placement.
- Staffs University students have been on placement in Football coaching to gain experience, as well as undertaking project work for studies.
- Offering placement opportunities through the Community and Voluntary Service.
- We are the link with local schools and colleges to offer work experience placements.

## **Disability Sport**

- Organise and run the North Staffs Special Schools Sport Association short tennis tournament as part of their sports competition programme.
- Link in with other competitions as organised by the group.
- Established the Newcastle Disability Multi-Sports Club at Jubilee 2 and have gained funding from Aiming High for the second year running. The club encourages people with a disability and their families to try a number of sports e.g. boccia, goal ball, climbing, zumba and swimming.

## **Tennis**

- We organise junior (5 year-olds and over) and adult coaching programmes held at Westlands Sports ground to help people learn how to play. This enables more people to use the existing courts around the Borough in their own time.
- We organise taster coaching courses during school holidays to attract more children to play.
- Hold and organise the Tennis Tournament held during the Summer Holidays for 8 to 16 year olds.

## **American Football**

- Working with a new club to develop a junior section that can operate within the Borough.
- Working with the club on possible Sportivate bids to be submitted for 2013/4. One for 14 to 17 year olds, another for 18 to 25 years olds.

## **Athletics**

- In conjunction with SASSOT (Sport Across Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent) we have recently trained two Run Leaders who will pilot running groups from Kidsgrove Sports Centre starting in January 2013.

## **Cycling**

- Worked in partnership with British Cycling in 2012/13 to train Ride Leaders from within the department and Newcastle Cycling Club to provide led cycle rides at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels.
- The rides were all based in the Borough and took place during the summer and autumn to coincide with London 2012 and British Cycling's success.

## **Knutton 3G Pitch at Knutton Recreation Centre**

- Currently organising the football teams that play on the pitch.
- Team coordinating bookings, invoicing teams, staffing the facility, maintaining cleanliness and safety of site.

## **Community Football Sessions at Knutton 3G Pitch**

- Currently run 2 weekly football sessions for Silverdale, Parkside, Knutton & Cross Heath area.
- Transport provided for young people from Silverdale and Parkside to attend.
- Part of diversionary activities programme.

## **Children's Activities in Parks/Open Spaces**

- During summer, we worked with Staffs Police to undertake a programme of children's activities at Clough Hall Park.
- Looking to expand on this during 2013 as part of a wider activity programme including some 'community games' style events.
- Part of Love Parks event at Brampton to help highlight a national campaign for people to use their local parks more.

## **Badminton**

- Weekly no strings badminton session at Kidsgrove Sports Centre
- Part of the North Staffs Badminton Development Group which looks at the development of sport within the area.

## **Cricket**

- Worked with Kidsgrove CC to provide indoor cricket opportunities over the winter
- Part of Newcastle Cricket Development group who focus on the development of the sport with all the cricket clubs within the Borough

### **Horse Riding**

- Work with Rockley Riding Stables to provide holiday activities such as own a pony days.
- Highlights local opportunities as well as new experiences.
- Support the Newcastle Equestrian Forum.

### **Knutton & Cross Heath LAP**

- Working with partner organisations such as Project House, and Staffs Young People's Service to look at activities for young people within the 2 ward areas.

### **Community Groups**

- Assist a variety of sports and leisure groups throughout the Borough with funding advice and support. Groups include Bowls Clubs, Exercise groups, badminton group etc.
- Many of the groups specifically target older people and people on low incomes.

### **Older People Activity Programme**

- Organise and deliver a range of activities including tennis, badminton, exercise classes and walks.
- Sessions held in local community centres and sports centres.

### **Football Development Programme**

#### **As per Service Level Agreement with the NHS:**

- 1 day Football coaching
- 2 day Football coaching
- 3 day football coaching
- 5 ( Fun week ) football coaching

#### **Player Development coaching sessions (5-13 yrs)**

- 2 x 10 week blocks
- Three times a year
- 2 different venues

#### **Mini Kickers (3-4 yrs)**

- 2 x 5 week blocks
- Twice a year
- Different venues

### **Mini Soccer (5-16 yrs)**

- Every Saturday morning all year round
- 1 venue

### **Just play (16 yrs +)**

- FA / Mars link
- Every Saturday all year round
- 1 venue

### **Girls coaching (5-13yrs)**

- 3 x 5 week blocks per year
- 2 venues

### **Club links**

- Specialist coaching with local clubs in the Borough
- Development centre sessions with pro club (PVFC)

### **School links**

- After school clubs with local schools in the Borough
- 4 sessions at present

### **Funding Bids**

- Assisted Silverdale Cricket Club to gain £50,000 in first round of Sport England Inspired Facilities Funding for facility improvements to changing facilities and storage.
- Assisted Basford Tennis Club to gain £50,000 in the second round of Sport England Inspired Facilities Funding for money to improve playing courts.
- Applying on behalf of the Stone and District Sports Association (Clayton Sports Centre) to Sport England for £144k and to the England and Wales Cricket Board for £100k for refurbishment of the centre. The forward plan is for the organisation to become sustainable and, in collaboration with Newcastle and Hartshill Cricket Club, to become a centre of excellence for cricket in the Borough.
- We have recently become the lead organisation for managing and coordinating the Sport England led Sportivate Project for Newcastle. This will involve working in partnership with clubs, facilities and educational establishments to allocate £12k of funding for young peoples' activity projects throughout the Borough.

## **Jubilee 2**

- Currently teaching swimming to 700 children per week.
- Children are signposted to our Rookies classes (lifeguarding, water safety and first aid) or to NASC (Newcastle Amateur Swimming Club) who are based at the centre.
- Working in partnership with the ASA (Amateur Swimming Association) and the IOS (Institute of Swimming) as a host venue in North Staffordshire for aquatics and swimming qualifications and training courses.
- We are a member of the Institute of Qualified Lifeguards Approved Training Centre Scheme – this means that we can deliver the National Pool Lifeguard Qualification to employees and the public.

**Rob Foster**  
**Head of Leisure and Cultural Services**

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## ALLOTMENTS SERVICE – REVIEW OF POLICY ISSUES AND OPTIONS PAPER

**Submitted by:** Head of Operations – Roger Tait

**Portfolio:** Culture & Leisure/Environment & Recycling

**Ward(s) affected:** All

### **Purpose of the Report**

To inform Cabinet of progress with the review of the Allotments Policy and issues which have arisen out of the preliminary work.

To present an issues and options report for Cabinet to consider.

To seek the endorsement of the Cabinet of the identified issues for referral to the Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration of the options available to progress the review.

### **Recommendations**

**(a) That Cabinet endorse the issues identified in the report.**

**(b) That the Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked to undertake a review of the issues identified with particular reference to local management, meeting future demand and reducing the current cost.**

**(c) That a report on the outcome of the scrutiny and consultation process is brought to a future meeting of the Cabinet, in conjunction with a draft reviewed Allotments Policy.**

### **Reasons**

To update the Allotments Policy and seek to achieve efficiency savings in relation to the cost of providing an allotment service.

## **1. Background**

1.1 There have been significant changes in a number of factors affecting the demand for allotments and the way allotments are provided and managed since the Borough Council's Allotment Policy was last renewed, meaning that the policy is now no longer fit for purpose.

1.2 A report regarding a proposed review of the allotments service was considered by Cabinet at the meeting on 30 November 2011.

It was resolved:

(a) That a review of the Council's Allotments Policy be carried out, including the consideration of options to reduce the cost of the service and progress local management of allotment sites.

(b) That a report on the outcome of the review, including consultation work and a proposed revised charging structure, be brought to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

- 1.3 Since your meeting, officers have undertaken a number of tasks to gather information, research current trends in the sector and benchmark the service against examples of good practice.
- 1.4 Some initial consultation has also been undertaken with national allotment organisations, other local authorities, APSE and current plot holders in the Borough.
- 1.5 This information has been analysed to identify the current issues affecting the allotment service in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

The following section of this report will list the key issues, and offer options which could be pursued to address them.

## 2. **Issues**

- 2.1 The key issues can be grouped into 5 broad areas (listed in provisional order of priority), with sub-headings to divide each area into specific topics for consideration as follows:

	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Sub Heading</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1	Provision	Needs assessment	No formal needs assessment has been undertaken
		Local standards	No local standard is currently set. National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners recommend a national standard of 15 plots per 1000 households.
		Current provision and providers	All known providers and total number of plots are listed
		Demand/waiting lists	Waiting lists for other local providers is available
		Future provision and providers	There is no current strategy for future provision although there are some small projects in progress with other local providers
		Plot sizes	Plot sizes are generally large and based on historic system of provision
2	Management	Administration	Administration is currently divided between 2 separate directorates and 3 teams
		Waiting Lists	Waiting lists are managed by the Community Team
		Tenancy agreements	Existing tenancy agreements are outdated and not fit for purpose
		Enforcement	Enforcement of tenancy



		Community management	agreements is currently limited by capacity, dispersed management and outdated process
		Stewardship	Community management is currently in place at one Borough Council site  No formal stewardship scheme exists at present
3	Resources	Cost to the Council	The net cost of providing the service is currently approx £40k
		Charging policy (subsidy v cost recovery)	The current approach is to subsidise the provision of allotments. Full cost recovery would involve high increases in rent.
		Collection of rent	Rent collection is carried out by the Revenues and Benefits team. Non payment is pursued by the Community Team but reliant on information provided by the Revenues and Benefits team
		Capacity	There is limited financial and staff resource capacity to develop the service beyond it's current level at present
		Funding	There is limited capital and revenue funding available from any source to invest in improvements and maintenance
4	Sustainability	Waste management	Removal and recycling of waste is mainly undertaken by the Council at present, with some on site composting by plot holders
		Water	Each site has a mains water supply with stand pipes and many plot holders use water butts
		Toilets	Only one site has a toilet at present which is provided and maintained by the Council
		Biodiversity	Some sites have dedicated wildlife gardens but there is generally limited promotion of biodiversity and in some cases, a direct conflict between biodiversity and allotment gardening

5	Promotion	Benefits	There are many benefits to allotment gardening but marketing is constrained by the limited availability of plots
		Health and Well-being	Allotment gardening makes a positive contribution to health and well-being and the scope to develop this should be considered
		Barriers	Barriers include limited plot availability, over large plot sizes, lack of site facilities, fear of crime/ASB/vandalism, site security, site location, travel distance
		Consultation	Annual user satisfaction surveys are carried out but consultation should be expanded to include those on the waiting list and other stakeholders
		Partnership	Partnership opportunities should be explored to determine appetite/capacity

2.2 These issues are broadly similar to those affecting a number of local authorities, other providers and allotment gardeners across England and Wales.

It is considered appropriate to refer the potential options to address these issues to the Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee to allow full consideration, debate and recommendations for consultation prior to setting the framework for the reviewed draft strategy.

### 3. Options Considered

3.1 The following section of the report outlines options which are available to address the issues and poses questions for members of the Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on how they would prefer to proceed.

	Issue	Sub Heading	Option	Questions
1.	Provision	Needs assessment	Carry out basic needs assessment	Do Members wish to carry out a needs assessment and set a local standard for allotment provision?
		Local standards	Develop local standard	
		Current provision and providers	Map existing sites and identify gaps	Do Members wish to engage with other providers to scope options for

		Demand/waiting lists	Map plot holders and applicants on waiting list and identify gaps	“shared service” provision? If so, which providers/potential providers?  Do Members wish to consider applicants from outside of the Borough for plots on council sites and vice versa?
		Future provision and providers	Identify areas of search and potential sites/providers	Do Members wish to consider the principle of investing in additional provision?
2.	Management	Administration	Rationalise administration into single team	Do Members wish to adopt a more robust approach to allotment management, including eviction where rules are breached?  Do Members wish to offer varying plot sizes and tenancies to encourage greater participation?  Do Members wish to consider differing management models, from completely devolved community management to stewardship if and where appetite and capacity exists?
		Waiting Lists	Manage waiting list more robustly	
		Plot sizes	Offer differing plot sizes	
		Tenancy agreements	Review and update agreements	
		Enforcement	Enforce tenancy agreements more robustly and speedily	
		Community management	Investigate appetite and capacity for community management	
		Stewardship	Investigate appetite and capacity for stewardship scheme	
3.	Resources	Cost to the Council	Provide detailed cost analysis	Do Members wish to implement a charging structure which seeks to
		Charging policy (subsidy v cost	Agree principle of	

		recovery)  Collection of rent  Capacity  Funding	either subsidising the service or seeking to achieve cost recovery  Pursue non payment more robustly  Accept constraints of current capacity or invest to increase  Accept constraints of current capital and revenue availability or seek to increase/invest	recover a greater proportion of the costs of providing the service?  Do Members wish to review concessionary rents?  Do Members wish to consider charging per m2 rather than flat rate per plot?  Do Members wish to pursue non payment and enforce eviction in appropriate cases?  Do Members wish to invest in the service?
4.	Sustainability	Waste management  Water  Toilets  Biodiversity	Develop waste management rules for all sites  Develop water use rules for all sites  Set criteria for toilet provision Integrate biodiversity considerations into the proposed policy	Do Members wish to require plot holders to manage and dispose of their own waste?  Do Members wish to restrict the use of mains water and consider troughs instead of stand pipes?  Do Members wish to consider providing toilets on any sites?  Do Members wish to promote and protect biodiversity on all sites?
5.	Marketing	Benefits  Health and Well-being	Agree marketing approach  Promote benefits of allotment	Do Members wish to actively market allotment gardening?

		Barriers	gardening in emerging Health and Well-being strategy Investigate measures to overcome barriers to use	Do Members wish to link allotment gardening into the emerging Health and Well-being strategy? Do Members wish to invest in the service to overcome barriers?
		Consultation	Consult on proposed direction of policy	Who do Members wish to consult with and what is the scope of the consultation?
		Partnership	Investigate appetite and capacity of partners to contribute	Do Members wish to focus on any particular partners to assist in delivering the service?

3.2 If Cabinet agree, your officers will present the options to the Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee to inform and facilitate the discussion and provide ongoing support to the committee to carry out its agreed methodology for completing the scrutiny and consultation process.

It is recommended that Cabinet request the Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee to undertake a review of the issues identified with particular reference to local management, meeting future demand and reducing the current cost.

4. **Proposal**

- (a) That Cabinet endorse the issues identified in the report..
- (b) That the Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked to undertake a review of the issues identified with particular reference to local management, meeting future demand and reducing the current cost.
- (c) That a report on the outcome of the scrutiny and consultation process is brought to a future meeting of the Cabinet, in conjunction with a draft reviewed Allotments Policy.

5. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

5.1 To update the Allotments Policy and seek to achieve efficiency savings in relation to the cost of providing an allotment service.

6. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

6.1 Creating a cleaner, safer and sustainable Borough.

6.2 Creating a healthy and active community.

7. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

7.1 There are a number of legal and statutory implications relating to the provision, maintenance and charging of allotments. These were detailed in the previous report and will be reviewed and included within the subsequent report to Cabinet.

8. **Equality Impact Assessment**

8.1 An assessment will be undertaken as part of the review process.

9. **Financial and Resource Implications**

9.1 Financial implications will be considered as part of the review process. The total net cost to the Council of the allotment service in 2011/12 was £43,559.

9.2 The review will be led by officers from the Community Business Unit in the Operations Service, and this will be programmed into the team's work plans and absorbed within existing staff resources.

Support will be required from officers in other Business Units including Legal, Finance, Property, ICT and Business Improvement.

10. **Major Risks**

10.1 The risks associated with each option will be considered as part of the review process.

11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 This initiative impacts on more than 2 wards and has been included in the Forward Plan.

12. **Earlier Cabinet Resolution**

12.1 Cabinet – 30 November 2011: Res No. 28.

13. **List of Appendices**

None

14. **Background Papers**

None

## ACTIVE AND COHESIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Title	Scrutiny Method	Progress to Date	Expected Completion Date	Expected Outcomes/Date for Progress to be Assessed
Review of Grants & Third Sector Commissioning Framework <b>(AMBER)</b>	Full Committee	Agreed on 14.06.2012 that Cabinet be informed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee positive re recs.</li> <li>• Needs of Borough residents be given top priority with regards to tendering exercise.</li> <li>• Further reports be brought back to the Committee once bidding process complete.</li> </ul> Cabinet agreed in principle, A & C will be consulted further before final decision made. A & C to revisit later in year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern raised 06.09.12 re funding for Coalfield Alliance mining wards. Assurance requested that coalfield regen money would go to these areas &amp; not in collective pot at SCC. Appears to go directly to CAB, not through NBC.</li> <li>• Report re Public Sector in Partnership expected Mar 2013</li> </ul>		
Bateswood Consultation Process <b>(GREEN)</b>	<b>Working Group:</b> Cllr Cairns Cllr J. Cooper Cllr Lawton Cllr Wilkes Cllr G. Williams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site Visit on 11th May.</li> <li>• WG met 23.05.12.</li> <li>• Meeting with interested parties 27.06.2012.</li> <li>• A &amp; C considered wg recs 06.09.12, agreed recs to be put forward for Cabinet to consider.</li> <li>• Cabinet resolved 17.10.12 to adopt wg recs.</li> </ul>		Would the Committee like to revisit this at some point in the future?
Draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy <b>(AMBER)</b>	Currently with Health Scrutiny Committee.	Coordinating resolved strategy should remain with Health Scrutiny. Small WG at SCC incl. Cllr Eastwood. Special meeting at SCC to discuss.		
Leisure Trust Options	TBC	Outline business case being established, models being investigated. May be community interest company rather than leisure trust option. Expected in the new year.		
Allotments Service <b>(AMBER)</b>	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report to Cabinet 30.11.2011 – agreed a review should be carried out.</li> <li>• Cabinet considered 14.11.12. A &amp; C to undertake a review of the issues identified. Cabinet report and how scrutiny of this will proceed to be considered at Dec meeting.</li> </ul>		
Community Centre Review <b>(AMBER)</b>	Working Group set up by Coordinating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet request Coord set up wg to shadow officer wg.</li> <li>• Wg set up. First meeting 31.10.2012.</li> </ul>		
Horsgrove Sports Centre <b>(GREEN)</b>	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guarantee to be requested that regular inspections will be carried out in future.</li> </ul>		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More unexpected closures can't be ruled out due to condition of building.</li> <li>• Cabinet received update 14.11.2012 – sports centre to re-open 17.11.2012.</li> </ul>		
Local Sporting Opportunities & Achievements	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed as possible topic at Sept meeting.</li> <li>• Current activities for sports development in the Borough to be received at Dec meeting. A 'virtual school of sports' could be the way forward.</li> </ul>		
<b>MEMBERS SUGGESTIONS FOR SCRUTINY TOPICS</b>				
<b>Suggested by:</b>	<b>Suggestion for Scrutiny Topic:</b>			