



Dear Allotment Tenant,

Today we are publishing proposals to increase allotment rents and revise our current tenancy agreement, to help us better manage our allotments and the service we provide. As a current allotment tenant, we would like to hear your views on our proposals.

Since the adoption of our last Allotments Strategy in 2009, interest in food growing – both nationally and locally – has surged; a trend which accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic. This rise in interest has seen allotment waiting lists grow to almost 8,000 people. This increase requires a shift from focussing on purely improving allotments sites, to considering how we can increase access to food growing opportunities.

Allotment rents in Bristol have not been reviewed since 2018, and to simply maintain services at existing levels we need to increase rents to cover rising costs, look after an increased number of tenants and cover the demands on the service.

However, we aspire to go further than just maintaining the current service, as we want to improve the offer to our current tenants and work towards increasing the number of plots available for those on the waiting list. To meet the cost of these service improvements, we propose increasing the rent and charging for service requests that are not part of the standard allotment tenancy.

We understand that the rent increase at this time may be difficult for some on a low income, so we propose expanding the current low-income discount we offer to include tenants in receipt of Universal Credit or Pension Credit.

Revised Tenancy Agreement and Rules

The revised Allotment Tenancy Agreement and Allotment Rules (2023) will help provide clarity for tenants, and those on the waiting list. New rules have been added to deal with; disputes, complaints, oversized structures, co-workers, keeping of livestock, community and collective growing groups and cost recovery to clear overgrown plots or removing rubbish left by tenants.

We would like to hear your views on the proposed changes to allotment rent and tenancy agreement. You can view these in more detail and take part in the consultation online at:

www.ask.bristol.gov.uk/bristol-allotment

Draft Parks and Green Spaces Strategy

We have also published our draft Parks and Green Spaces Strategy for public consultation. Our allotment and food growing spaces provide people the opportunity to grow healthy, nutritious food for themselves and their families, and support the city's aspirations to achieve greater food equality. However, we know we need to consider how we can increase access to food growing opportunities. Whether it is strengthening our approach to sustainable food growing or ensuring that more communities can access food growing



opportunities, Food Growing and Allotments plays a critical part in delivering the strategic priorities outlined in the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.

You can take part in the consultation and view the strategy online at <https://www.ask.bristol.gov.uk/parks-and-green-spaces-strategy>

The consultations are open until the end of Monday 22 January 2024, and we will consider responses before taking the strategy and proposed allotment changes to the council's Cabinet in March 2024.

To request the survey in an alternative format please email allotments@bristol.gov.uk or call 01179222100.

Kind regards,

Bristol Allotment Team
11th December 2023