

Revenue Budget Summary - Allotments

Budget Description	Budget Holder	2024/25 Gross Budget	2024/25 Net Budget
Allotments	Steve Cooper (Works and Environment Manager)	£34,850	£25,700
<p>Purpose of the Budget:</p> <p>The purpose of the Allotments Budget is to fund the operational resources including staffing, machinery and equipment required to maintain and administer the letting of allotment sites in Great Aycliffe.</p>			
<p>Scope of Activity and Nature of the Service:</p> <p>The Allotments Budget provides the resources to maintain and repair allotment fencing and footpaths and also to supply water for the use of allotment tenants, as well as account for staff time in relation to the management and letting of the plots, and the billing and collection of income in respect of these. In addition, staff time is required to maintain the infrastructure including grass cutting, tree works and general maintenance duties in the communal areas.</p> <p>The Council currently provides allotments at Aycliffe Village, Byerley Park, Clarence Chare, Finchale Road and St Oswald's. The provision of allotments is a statutory service area.</p>			
<p>Contribution to Council Aims:</p> <p>Allotments contribute to the following Council Strategic Aims:-</p> <p><i>Aim 2: "To manage the Council's finances and assets in a responsible manner"</i></p> <p><i>Aim 3: "To provide accessible, affordable leisure facilities and opportunities"</i></p> <p><i>Aim 5: "To contribute to the environmental improvement of Aycliffe by managing and developing parks, play areas and green spaces"</i></p>			
<p>Performance Measures and Indicators</p> <p>The provision of Allotments is a statutory function and contributes directly towards the Strategic Aims highlighted above, including the following two specific targets:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hold an Allotments AGM. - Hold a minimum of four allotments representative meetings. - Work with Great Aycliffe Gardeners' Guild to establish a Gardeners' Guild at Clarence Chare Allotments 			
<p>Key Budget Changes for 2023/24</p> <p>The Allotments Budget has decreased by £1250 at a net running cost of £25,700 per year. This is mainly due to an increase in revenue from allotment rents.</p>			
<p>Importance of Service to the Community</p> <p>There are currently 222 allotment plots, 5 poultry sites, 7 pigeon lofts and 9 bee plots. All plots are in use or in the process of being re-let and there are waiting lists in place for all sites.</p> <p>An Allotments Satisfaction Survey is undertaken each year, and the Council also holds an Allotments AGM and attends allotments representatives' meetings, with good feedback received from all.</p> <p>The 2024 'Your Parish, Your Choice, Your Voice' Satisfaction Survey provided limited feedback with only 8 responses, but all of those rated the allotments highly, with the lowest satisfaction level being received for Byerley Park allotments.</p>			

External Funding and Fees and Charges:

The Council operates a standardised system of allotments charges based around the size of allotments plots. The charging system is based around bands of rents linked to the size of the allotment plot ranging from £26.40 for a plot under 75 metres squared to £52.90 for a plot over 300 metres squared.

Pigeon lofts are charged at £64.40 per plot, poultry sites at £117.30 per site and bee plots at £26.40. Total income from the allotments is budgeted at £9,150 for 2024/25.

Charges are regularly benchmarked against other similar providers and are reviewed annually by the Council's Policy and Resources Committee.