

**Classification:** Public

**Key Decision:** No

## **Gravesham Borough Council**

**Report to:** Operational Services Cabinet Committee

**Date:** Tuesday 17 November 2020

**Reporting officer:** Stuart Alford - Assistant Director (Operations)  
Mary Bobby - Cemetery Manager

**Subject:** Allotment Bee Keeping Policy

### **Purpose and summary of report:**

To present Members with the new Allotment Bee Keeping Policy for its consideration, comments and recommend its adoption

### **Recommendations:**

1. Members are requested to consider the Allotment Bee Keeping Policy attached at appendix two and recommend its adoption.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Allotment tenants have had a long tradition of beekeeping and the recent decline in honey bee numbers is of national and international concern. In declaring a climate emergency, as part of its efforts to prepare the borough to become carbon neutral by 2030, Gravesham Borough Council is keen to support beekeeping. The Council has identified the critical role that honey bees play in the biodiversity of allotment sites and in helping improve the wider living environment; a direct commitment of the Council's Corporate Plan (2019-23).
- 1.2 With the heightened interest in honey bees, there has been an increase in interest from allotment tenants to have bee hives. It is intended that the attached policy will help manage the process for enabling bee hives to be safely installed within our allotments and ensure their ongoing management.

## **2. Allotment Bee Keeping Policy**

- 2.1 Any allotment holder wishing to keep honey bees must obtain the Council's permission and will be subject to the conditions detailed within the policy. Not every plot on every site will be in a suitable location for beekeeping and be able to provide adequate screening and distance from fellow plot tenants.

- 2.2 The policy sets out
  - 2.2.1 The beekeeper owes a duty of care
  - 2.2.2 Provide stand-by arrangements in case of an emergency
  - 2.2.3 Ensure the bee hives are inspected annually by an experience beekeeper
  - 2.2.4 Procedure for complaints
  - 2.2.5 Level of insurance required
  - 2.2.6 Training
  - 2.2.7 Sale of Honey
  - 2.2.8 Withdrawal of Consent
  - 2.2.9 Diseases
- 2.3 Tenants applying to keep honey bees should notify neighbouring tenants of their request to keep honey bees on their plot both verbally and by a prominently displayed notice (designed by Council) on their plot. Such notices should be displayed for a minimum period of 28 days between April and September and 56 days between November and March, indicating that a request to keep bees has been submitted to Gravesham Borough Council.
- 2.4 Once the new policy has been approved, then all current bee hives will be reviewed against the new policy

### **3. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 3.1 None

Anyone wishing to inspect background papers should, in the first place, be directed to Committee & Electoral Services who will make the necessary arrangements.

IMPLICATIONS	APPENDIX 1
<b>Legal</b>	Allotment Act 1950
<b>Finance and Value for Money</b>	There is no financial request to the Council
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	The policy details what rules the allotment holder must follow including being a member of the bee keeping association, have adequate training and have public liability insurance.
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	<i>A data protection impact assessment (DPIA) should be carried out at the start of any major project involving the use of personal data or if you are making a significant change to an existing process.</i>
	<p>a. Does the project/change being recommended through this paper involve the processing of <a href="#">personal data</a> or <a href="#">special category data</a> or <a href="#">criminal offence data</a>? A definition of each type of data can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office website via the above links.</p>
	<p>b. If yes to question a, have you completed and attached a DPIA including Data Protection Officer advice? Yes</p>
	<p>c. If no to question b, please seek advice from your nominated DPIA assessor or the Information Governance Team at <a href="mailto:gdpr@medway.gov.uk">gdpr@medway.gov.uk</a>.</p>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	<p>a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community? If yes, please explain answer. No</p>
	<p>b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? If yes, please explain answer. No</p>
	<i>In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above</i>
<b>Corporate Plan</b>	#1 People : Improve the local environment
<b>Climate Change</b>	Yes - Meets the action to increase bio-diversity across the borough
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	There are no implications.
<b>Digital and website implications</b>	There are no implications.
<b>Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults</b>	There are no implications.