
CENTRAL PARK ALLOTMENTS

**Responsible Cabinet Members – Councillor John Williams, Economy Portfolio,
Councillor Stephen Harker, Resources Portfolio
Responsible Director – Richard Alty, Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration)**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To release an additional £250,000 funding towards the final costs of £750,000 for the relocation of some of the Hundens Lane Allotments to Arnold Road.

Summary

2. On 13 July 2004, Cabinet resolved that the Council participate in the Central Park project, including the relocation of the Hundens Lane allotments to alternative sites
3. Consultations with allotment holders have taken place and construction of two of the three new sites are complete, with Arnold Road nearing completion for handover to tenants from Sept 2008.
4. The initial cost was estimated at £598,207, with final costs now standing at £750,000, following tender return, amendments to the specification and provisions for Great Crested Newts.
5. All costs will be met by external funding with no cost implications to the Council.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that Cabinet agree to release an additional £250,000 of external funding to progress and finalise the costs of the relocation of the Hundens Lane Allotments to Arnold Road

Reasons

7. The recommendation is supported to enable the Hundens Lane allotments to be relocated to alternative sites in order to progress the Central Park development

Background Papers

No Background papers were used in the compilation of this report.

Rebecca Dent: Extension 2041

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are significant anti social behaviour issues around the allotments, which the relocation should help to address.
Health and Well Being	This will not have any direct impact on Health and Well Being
Sustainability	This will not have any direct impact on Sustainability
Diversity	This will not have any direct impact on Diversity
Wards Affected	Lingfield
Groups Affected	Not Applicable
Budget and Policy Framework	The proposal's do not represent a change to the Council's Budget or Policy Framework
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	Yes. In order to complete the Arnold Road allotments and progress the Central Park development a decision is required during September
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The development of Central Park is important in the delivering outcomes that meet the themes of Prosperous, Aspiring, Greener and Safer Darlington in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

Background

8. On 13 July 2004, Cabinet resolved that the council participate in the Central Park Project as landowner, including the relocation of the Council Depot to a location off Yarm Road/Salters Lane and the relocation of the Hundens Lane allotments to alternative sites.
9. The Council have entered into a joint venture agreement for the Central Park development with Tees Valley Regeneration (TVR), English Partnerships and One NorthEast, following Cabinet Approval in April 2006
10. On 20 March 2007, Cabinet agreed to the Arnold Road Allotments progressing as a Council capital scheme, and released funding to the value of approximately £500,000 for the project

Progress

11. At the point of the last Cabinet report, initial estimates to undertake work for this project were £500,000.
12. Tender costs were returned from contractors and the proposed appointment of Highway Construction at a cost of £598,207 was reported to a Tender Panel on 30th April 2007.
13. The increase in cost was due to Great Crested Newts, and the delay in obtaining a licence from Natural England for part of the site, due to the close proximity of the site to Darlington Eastern Transport Corridor.
14. Further cost increases were incurred due to consultations with allotment tenants and additional specifications on structures and general layout.
15. The site is now almost complete and final costs total approximately £750,000.

Funding

16. The necessary funding was secured from One NorthEast's Single Programme allocation for Central Park and has been distributed to the Council via the Tees Valley Partnership and/or TVR. It was agreed that any cost overruns on the contract would be a cost to the Central Park project and met by English Partnerships/One NorthEast.
17. One NorthEast/English Partnerships have already committed to £750,000 for the allotments from Central Park project funds.
18. No financial input is required from the Council.

Outcome of Consultation

19. Consultations with tenants of the allotments have been ongoing throughout the relocation, helping to minimise disruption for all parties.