

## Allotment Cultivation Process

### 1. Allotment Plot Inspections

- a. The council inspects all plots between the months of April through to October.
- b. What we look for when inspecting:
  - i. Number on peg closest to the main path.
  - ii. Plot being cultivated, with evidence of crops growing.
  - iii. Boundaries & path neat & tidy
  - iv. Weeds kept to a minimum.
  - v. Grass to be cut on the paths between plots
  - vi. Rubbish & general tidiness.

### 2. Cultivation – When taking on a plot

- a. We will expect within
  - 3 Months – at least 25% to be cultivated with crops (First check)
  - 6 months – at least 50% to be cultivated with crops (Second check)
  - 9 months – at least 75% to be cultivated with crops (Third check)This starts from the date on your agreement.  
Checks will be usually be done 4 weeks before the due date.

### 3. Non-cultivation

- a. If you receive a letter for non-cultivation you will be allowed one month to make significant improvements; any other time scales must be agreed with the council. If you fail to do so we will ask you to give up your tenancy.
- b. You may use plastic sheeting only as a temporary measure to suppress weeds

### 4. Weeds

- a. When taking on a new plot there are likely to be plenty of weeds. Be prepared to spend for lots of hard work to clear the plot properly.
- b. To do this you need to make frequent visits to your allotment, especially during the main growing season, and make weeding a regular task. Digging over the ground and removing roots is the most effective organic way but other methods can help.
- c. Weed killer may be used carefully on days with no wind, taking care it does not contaminate neighbouring plots.

### 5. Pathways

- a. Wood chippings/bark with weed matting will make a good mulch for pathways.
- b. Pathways between plots should be around 45 cm or 18" wide and kept clear of crops, weeds, tools and rubbish.
- c. Leave a clear 3' pathway between your plot and any boundary hedge

Always place your shed, polycarbonate greenhouse or poly tunnel 30-45 cm away from the main pathway so that they won't get damaged when staff cut the main pathways.