

Report of: Head of Property and Contracts

Report to: Chief Officer Property and Contracts

Subject: Proposed lease of land off Cautley Road to Cross Green Tenant and Resident Association for use as allotments.

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Burmantofts and Richmond Hill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. A local group in Cross Green have approached Leeds City Council to ask for permission to lease a plot of land to be used as an allotment. A suitable plot has been identified at the rear of Cautley Road garage site. The Cross Green Tenant and Resident Association (Cross Green TARA) is willing to take over the management of the site for use as an allotment.
2. The area in question (highlighted on the attached plan) is vested with Environment and Housing and managed by Housing Leeds. The land has no operational use for the Department and has no development potential. Furthermore the land is not currently on a maintenance schedule which presents a financial burden to Leeds City Council.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Chief Officer of Property and Contracts agree to grant a lease to Cross Green TARA in order to manage the land off Cautley Road (highlighted on the attached plan) as an allotment site. The terms of the lease are to be approved by the Director of City Development.

Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to grant a license to Cross Green TARA to use the aforementioned land as an allotment site.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The Cross Green TARA is a well-established association formed in xxxx. It has a strong membership and links with elected members. Over the last few years Cross Green TARA has worked with various Leeds City Council departments and the Feed Leeds initiatives to develop urban and food growing projects which have improved the area and increased active citizenship.
- 2.2 In recent months the Cross Green TARA has partnered with a social enterprise called Hyde Park Source who help local people learn to improve their surroundings and develop new skills by designing and creating attractive, safe and useful community spaces.
- 2.3 Hyde Park Source is a member of the Feed Leeds initiative and is funded through the Jimbos Fund to work with Cross Green TARA for at least 12 months to develop a sustainable self-managed allotment project.
- 2.4 There are 3 vacant garages on the Cautley Road site which are in need of repair. Hyde Park Source is applying for funding from Housing Leeds to renovate the units and turn them into useable storage for the Allotment Association.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The site off Cautley Road (highlighted on the attached plan) has been identified through internal consultation as suitable for allotments. The site is vested with Environment and Housing and managed by Housing Leeds.
- 3.2 A group of local residents supported by Cross Green TARA and Hyde Park Source are interested in using the site for allotments. The Property and Contracts division within Housing Leeds have received confirmation that Cross Green TARA are willing to take on the management of the site as allotments.
- 3.3 A lease agreement would be drawn up between Leeds City Council and Cross Green TARA, the terms of which would be agreed by the Director of City Development.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Local Ward Members, Area Management and residents who's properties surround the site have been consulted on the proposal and are fully supportive. Comments have been received by ward members who fully support the proposal.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 An equality, diversity cohesion and integration screening exercise has been carried out. This has affirmed that equality, diversity, cohesion and integration considerations have been effectively considered in relation to this proposal and that a full impact assessment was not required.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The proposal supports the following City and Council Priorities:

- Increase a sense of belonging that builds cohesive and harmonious communities; by supporting local residents groups to work together for the benefit of the community.
- Improving quality of life for residents; growing and consuming vegetables is known to be beneficial to health and also promotes new skills and learning for those residents who have not previously been involved in growing their own food.

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 The Department has no operational use for the land and the area is difficult to maintain and is not currently on a maintenance programme with Continental Landscapes.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 There are no adverse legal implications. The terms of the lease will be negotiated and approved by the Director of City Development in line with the Delegated Functions of the Council. The report is not eligible for call in.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 Historically the site was open and at times attracted fly tipping. The risk has been significantly reduced by the installation of steel perimeter fencing. Hyde Park Source will assess the quality of growing material and will assess the risk of any potential contaminants.

5 Conclusions

5.1 It is concluded that the Department has no operational use for the site in question. It is therefore recommended the site be managed by Cross Green TARA under a formal lease agreement for the purpose of allotments.

6 Recommendations

6.2 It is recommended that the Chief Officer of Property and Contracts agree to grant a lease to Cross Green TARA in order to manage the land off Cautley Road (highlighted on the attached plan) as an allotment site. The terms of the lease are to be approved by the Director of City Development.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 Plan identifying the site

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.