



|              |                                                                 |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Meeting      | Recreation & Leisure Committee                                  |
| Date         | Wednesday 17 September 2025                                     |
| Report Title | To DISCUSS and APPROVE actions required for West End Allotments |
| Author:      | Projects Officer, Johanna Hutcheson                             |

### **Officer's Recommendations:**

To approve the project outline and associated costs for the path improvement works at West End Allotments, and to allocate expenditure as follows:

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| External funding:          | £2,000.00 |
| EMRs Allotment Renovations | £5,278.12 |

NB: Current EMRs balance £7,085.44

### **BACKGROUND:**

The condition and width of the public footpath at West End Allotments has been a longstanding concern, particularly in relation to health and safety compliance and accessibility standards. At present, sections of the path narrow to approximately 50cm, creating a potential barrier to residents seeking to access the public footpath and associated recreational benefits.

In early 2023, members of the Committee undertook a site visit to inspect both the footpath and the boundary fence. Following this review, and in line with discussions held at the Committee meeting in March 2023, it was agreed that the target width for the path should be a minimum of 1 metre.

Photographic evidence from the site visit is provided below for reference.





In March 2023, the path was reconsidered in connection with boundary issues. Following this, allotment holders were advised of the intention to widen the path and the reasons for this decision. Despite five site visits and follow-up, no contractor provided a quotation, and no further action was taken. The matter, however, remains a priority.

To progress the project, £2,000 in external funding has been secured. A quotation has now been requested for the following works, as proposed by the Clerk:

- Widening the path to 1.2m along its full length
- Installing shutter boards on both sides (depth of 4-inch, with 2 inch spare).
- Laying stone surfacing (type 1)
- Installing fencing along the full length (allotment side, chain and post with netting on opposite side). Include 2 x gates within fence to enable access for allotment holders).

#### **Next steps:**

- Allotment holders will be notified and works scheduled once approved by Committee. Feedback from allotment holders regarding proposed improvements received:

*Can you explain more of the reasoning behind this move please? I don't understand why you would want to expand the pathway and shrink the allotment space. I cannot see a benefit in terms of being more accessible for people with limited mobility, as the fields beyond are equally inaccessible. I have not noticed any dog fouling though I do have a problem with cats, this however will not be alleviated by fencing.*

*Would we be able to have gates in the fence off the footpath like we currently do? There is a new allotment holder half way down who brings his dog. He keeps the dog on a lead as per the rules but it jumps up and bites so now, when he is there, I use the footpath and gate to get to my allotment as I'm not comfortable walking past him.*

- An invoice has been submitted to SDC for the secured funding, with reporting due by October.

#### **OUTLINE QUOTE & WORKS SUMMARY:**



| Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Quantity | Unit Price | VAT | Amount GBP |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|-----|------------|
| To widen footpath alongside allotments approx 170m x 1.2m.<br>To supply and install post and rail fence with a stock wire beneath rail to stop dogs/pedestrian's (using high performance timber stake/rails with depth of 6mm penetrated wood preservative to aid decay risk, using 40% moisture Spruce to aid absorption of wood preservative, meets Class 4 (UC4) BS8417 for ground zone requirements, using preserver specifically formulated for ground contact)<br>Level ground, lay and compact type 1 surface.<br>To leave site clean and tidy. | 1.00     | 5,853.12   | 20% | 5,853.12   |
| To supply and install 150mm x 22mm treated sawn gravel boards to edge of path.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 1.00     | 975.00     | 20% | 975.00     |
| To supply and install 2 x new gates in newly erected fence line (council to advise location)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 1.00     | 450.00     | 20% | 450.00     |
| Subtotal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |          |            |     | 7,278.12   |
| TOTAL VAT 20%                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |          |            |     | 1,455.62   |
| TOTAL GBP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |          |            |     | 8,733.74   |