



# **Garden Assistance Scheme Policy**

**Issued by Regeneration, Economy & Assets**

**July 2021**

## **Garden Assistance Scheme Policy Quality Record**

<b>Revision</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Stage</b>	<b>Agreed</b>
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**This Policy is available in larger print.  
Please contact Human Resource if you require  
assistance.**

## **1. Policy statement**

- 1.1 The Garden Assistance Scheme provides a basic 'one off' garden service to council tenants who are not able to maintain their gardens themselves.
- 1.2 The scheme will assist customers who are unable to maintain their gardens due to physical or mental health issues, a disability, long term illness or financial issues.

## **2. Purpose**

- 2.1 The purpose of this policy will:
- Ensure that the Housing & Communities team adopts a consistent, fair and transparent approach when assessing an applicant's qualifying criteria, how referrals are received and what remedial work is going to be carried out.

## **3. Responsibility**

- 3.1 The Head of Housing & Responsive Repairs retains the overall responsibility for the implementation of this Policy
- 3.2 The Head of Housing & Responsive Repairs and Tenancy Services Manager are responsible for the operational delivery of this policy and the associated procedures. This includes responsibility for monitoring and reviewing, staff awareness and training, policy development and communication to tenants.

## **4. The services that apply to the Garden Assistance Scheme**

- ❖ mowing grass
- ❖ pruning bushes and low small branches
- ❖ remedial tree works
- ❖ weeding
- ❖ strimming (brambles, nettles and overgrown greenery)
- ❖ tidying patio areas
- ❖ tidying hedges
- ❖ removal of green waste, such as bushes, brambles and leaves

- 4.1 The services that do not apply are as follows:
- ❖ Large scale landscaping or building work, such as paths, fences, paving areas or installing water features.
  - ❖ Rotavating or garden levelling.
  - ❖ Removal of hazardous material including glass, sheds with broken panes, toxic liquids / chemicals.
  - ❖ Non-hazardous waste (apart from green, natural waste) and bulky items
- Communal areas – as a general rule these areas will be maintained as part of Nuneaton and Bedworth's Borough Council's grounds maintenance service

## **5. Criteria**

- 5.1 Criteria for accessing the scheme will be as follows:
- ❖ Customers must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- ✓ Attendance Allowance
- ✓ Personal Independent Payment
- ✓ Disability Living Allowance (all types)
- ✓ Severe Disablement Allowance
- ✓ Industrial Injuries Benefit
- ✓ War Disablement Pension
- ✓ Long-term Incapacity Benefit
- ✓ Employment Support Allowance (Support Element)
- ✓ Employment Support Allowance (Transitional Element)

If a customer does not receive any of the above benefits they still may qualify for the scheme

- ❖ Customers must not have any person residing with them who could reasonably be expected to carry out garden works at the property
- ❖ Customers must be unable to carry out the work themselves
- ❖ Customers must have no relatives capable of carrying out the work living within a 10 mile radius

## **6. Operation**

6.1 The scheme will operate as follows:

- ❖ The scheme is based on direct application from customers, external partners, members or housing officers (this list is not exhaustive).
- ❖ Applications will be dealt with on a 'first come first served' basis
- ❖ The scheme shall operate within the annual budgetary limits
- ❖ Applications from tenants who do not meet the criteria will be refused.

## **7. Equalities**

7.1 This policy and associated procedures will apply to all. Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and to eliminating unlawful discrimination on the grounds of race, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, religion, belief, class, financial status and any other difference that can lead to discrimination or unfair treatment.

## **8. Related Documents**

- Tenancy Agreement
- Anti-social behaviour Policy

## **9. Review Date**

9.1 This Policy will be reviewed every 3 years.