Dear Sir/Madam,

The Cabinet Member Housing and Communities (Councillor J.A. Jackson) is to consider the following reports and make a decision on Tuesday, 27th January, 2015 at 6.00 p.m. in Interview Room D, Town Hall, Nuneaton.

Yours faithfully,

ALAN FRANKS
Managing Director

AGENDA
PART 1
PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. EVACUATION PROCEDURE

A fire drill is not expected, so if the alarm sounds please evacuate the building quickly and calmly. Please use the stairs and do not use the lifts. Once out of the building, please gather outside the Yorkshire Bank on the opposite side of the road.

Exit by the door by which you entered the room or by the fire exits which are clearly indicated by the standard green fire exit signs.
If you need any assistance in evacuating the building, please make yourself known to a member of staff.

Please also make sure all your mobile phones are turned off or set to silent.

2. PUBLIC CONSULTATION - Members of the public will be given the opportunity to speak on specific agenda items if notice has been received.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests, in accordance with the Members’ Code of Conduct.

   Note: Following the adoption of the new Code of Conduct, Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their personal interests at the commencement of the relevant item (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary or a Deemed Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, the Member must withdraw from the room.

Where a Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest but has received a dispensation from Standards Committee, that Member may vote and/or speak on the matter (as the case may be) and must disclose the existence of the dispensation and any restrictions placed on it at the time the interest is declared.

Where a Member has a Deemed Disclosable Interest as defined in the Code of Conduct, the Member may address the meeting as a member of the public as set out in the Code.

   Note: Council Procedure Rules require Members with Disclosable Pecuniary Interests to withdraw from the meeting unless a dispensation allows them to remain to vote and/or speak on the business giving rise to the interest.

Where a Member has a Deemed Disclosable Interest, the Council’s Code of Conduct permits public speaking on the item, after which the Member is required by Council Procedure Rules to withdraw from the meeting.

4. PILOT GARDEN SUPPORT SCHEME – Report of the Director – Housing and Communities attached. (Page 2)
1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval from the Portfolio Holder for Housing to implement the Pilot Garden Support Scheme (See appendix A for a copy of the criteria)

2. Recommendations

That the Pilot Garden Scheme be approved by the Portfolio Holder.

3. Background

3.2.1 The tenancy agreement is a legal document that describes the rights and responsibilities of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and their tenants. Section 5 of the agreement details those rights and responsibilities as they relate to the home.

3.2.2 The proposed pilot scheme is aimed to assist certain tenants to maintain their gardens to a reasonable standard.

3.2.3 It is proposed to work with a partner in the voluntary sector to undertake this pilot. Lawns & Roses are the only social enterprise working locally in this field. They work with volunteers to offer meaningful work experience to assist people find permanent employment and support their health & wellbeing. It is proposed to enter into a service level agreement to undertake a 12 month pilot.
3.2.4 The criteria of the scheme together with the scope of the works that can be undertaken is attached as appendix A. The aim of the scope is to assist those tenants who are unable to, or do not have the support to maintain their garden. The scheme provides a one-off garden clearance by the Council. Any future works can be made by agreement with Lawns & Roses should the tenant wish to pay.

3.2.5 A mid term review of the scheme will be carried out in June to identify the value of the scheme and any changes that maybe required. A full evaluation of the scheme will be brought to Housing, Health & Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Jane Beard
Housing Services Manager
PILOT GARDEN SUPPORT SCHEME

Eligibility Criteria

- The customer must be a secure tenant of Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council;
- The customer must not have access to any household members, relatives or support services capable of maintaining the garden;
- The customer must be in receipt of an eligible state/welfare benefit, such as;

  Personal Independence Payments
  Severe Disablement Allowance
  Industrial Injuries Benefit
  War disablement Pension
  Long-term Incapacity Benefit

Disability Living Allowance – only in exceptional circumstances will the low rates for the Care and Mobility Components be considered.

Scope of Works

(Free to eligible tenants)
- Lawn mowing;
- Strimming (brambles, nettles etc)
- Pruning bushes;
- Trimming hedges;
- Pruning epimoric growth and low small branches from trees;
- Weeding

(Additional works at tenant’s expense)
- Planting works;
- Gravel laying;
• Tidying patio areas
• Any works listed, on a regular basis