

Decision under delegated powers

Authority to lease an area of council-owned housing land to a community interest company

Officer requesting decision (if necessary)

Sally Ramalho – Principal Officer – Customer Engagement & Older Peoples Services

Officer making the decision

Peter Oliver – Director of Housing & Well Being

Recommendation

To agree to the creation of a lease for a community interest company to use a portion of housing land for non-commercial gardening purposes.

Reason

To enhance the environment of a currently-uncultivated piece of land by leasing it to a community interest company with strictly-controlled use for the benefit of the local community.

Authority for decision

The Director of Housing and Wellbeing has delegated authority to manage, allocate and license council-owned shops and other housing landlord-related buildings and land.

This decision falls within the scope of that delegation.

Decision and date

Approved.



25.07.23

Background

The council owns the land to the rear of 15 Howe Road, Shelthorpe (Appendix 1). The land had previously been used by a local resident group as a communal garden, however, over recent years the group no longer used the garden and the garden has become abandoned and overgrown.

The land was advertised to interested parties and The African Oasis CIC approached the council with the proposal to establish a community farm on the land. The draft lease contains strict conditions on the use of this piece of land.

The aim of the project is to produce food grown locally using new and sustainable methods, such as aquaponics, to enable the local community to buy food grown close to their homes thus reducing the carbon footprint.

The group will hope to inspire children and interested local volunteers to learn about and participate in the new methods of growing produce.

The garden is planned to be an urban oasis where the local community can come together.

HR implications

There are none.

Comments from HR

N/A

Financial implications

There are none. The African Oasis CIC are responsible for the maintenance of the land and for ensuring it is cleared if and when the project ceases. The lease also prevents the installation of any services which would incur a cost to the council if the African Oasis ceased using the land.

The legal costs for the lease are being met through the customer engagement community projects budget.

Comments from Finance/Accountancy

Legal implications

The lease has been drawn up and approved by the council's legal services department. The marked-up plan of the land in question is shown in appendix 1.

Comments from Legal Services

See above

Risk management

No financial risks have been identified with this report.

Key decision: No

H.M. LAND REGISTRY		TITLE NUMBER	
		LT 277255	
ORDNANCE SURVEY PLAN REFERENCE	SK 5317	SECTION A	Scale 1/1250
COUNTY LEICESTERSHIRE	DISTRICT CHARNWOOD	© Crown copyright 1977	

The boundaries shown by dotted lines have been plotted from the plans on the deeds. The title plan may be updated from later survey information

