

**BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL and MIDSUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**

<b>From: Corporate Manager - HRA Income &amp; Business Performance</b>	<b>Report Number: JHB/02/17</b>
<b>To: Joint Housing Board</b>	<b>Date of meeting: 16 January 2017</b>

**HB Report – Assisted Gardening Scheme**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To update the Housing Board on the future of an Assisted Gardening Scheme further to a report JHB/02/16 discussed in January 2016.
- 1.2 To update the Housing Board on the research into whether the Council should create a gardening service to offer to tenants.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 To note the content of this report and to agree to the continuation of the current Babergh Assisted Gardening Scheme for existing users (subject to regular review).

**3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 None

**4. Legal Implications**

- 4.1 None

**5. Risk Management**

- 5.1 This report is most closely linked with the Council's Corporate / Significant Business Risk No. Key risks are set out below:

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
None	None	None	None

**6. Consultations**

- 6.1 A desk top review has been carried out with no wider consultation taking place

**7. Equality Analysis**

- 7.1 No Equality analysis has taken place

**8. Shared Service / Partnership Implications**

- 8.1 None

## 9. Links to Joint Strategic Plan

9.1 Manage our housing assets effectively.

## 10. Key Information

10.1 A report was presented to the Housing Board in January 2016 which discussed the future of the Assisted Gardening Scheme (Babergh Only). A decision was made by the Housing Board to continue with the scheme for those existing users.

10.2 The Housing Board agreed that:

*“the scheme would continue for one year, with a further report to consider potential future opportunities (such as time, cost, benefits, and potential income opportunities) to develop a form of ‘handy man’ service, or an equivalent, to be brought to the Board within a year.”*

10.3 The attached Appendix titled ‘Research in to whether the Council should create a gardening service to offer to tenants’ was conducted by David Cleary with the final recommendation that it is not cost effective to developing any form of gardening service further, based on current constraints.

10.4 Consideration of a ‘Handy Man service’ for minor repairs and improvements has not been considered at the present time due to the current changes to the existing trades’ team, and the formulation of Babergh and Mid Suffolk Building Services Team. In addition there are already providers of ‘handyman’ services within Suffolk for example Orbit Care & Repair.

## 11. Appendices

Title	Location
(a) Research into whether the Council should create a gardening service to offer tenants Author David Cleary – Project Officer	Attached

## 12. Background Documents

12.1 Report JHB/02/16 – Future of Assisted Gardening Scheme (Babergh Only)

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