

#### EX4. GARDEN AID SERVICES

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting options for the future delivery of the Garden Aid Scheme.

At its meeting on 17 February 2016 (ref FC84), Council considered a proposal to generate savings through cessation of the garden aid scheme and agreed to consult on the proposal.

The report detailed the consultation which had been carried out and summarised the responses. The report set out 6 options for future service delivery. These were:-

- stop the provision of service;
- revise the eligibility criteria to reflect support needs and the ability to pay i.e.: in receipt of Community Care support and Council Tax reduction;
- revise the eligibility criteria to reflect support needs only i.e. in receipt of Community Care support;
- revise the eligibility criteria to reflect those over 80 years old (born pre 1936), currently on the Garden Aid list;
- introduction of a chargeable service; and
- continue the service based on current eligibility criteria.

The Garden Aid Scheme falls within the remit and responsibility of the Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board (IJB). At its meeting on 24 March 2016 the IJB agreed to allow Council to take a decision on future service delivery, recognising that, should the Executive agree to continue with some or all of the service, an additional payment would be made to the IJB on 2016/17.

Councillor C Martin, seconded by Councillor D Goldie, moved that *the Executive agrees:*

- (1) *to note the feedback from the consultation exercise;*
- (2) *to note also the assessment of impact and the actions available to mitigate some of that impact, particularly for those service users assessed as having the greatest need for support;*
- (3) *that there should be a review of the criteria for access to the Garden Aid Scheme to ensure that it is appropriately targeted to those in most need;*
- (4) *that, in the meantime, the scheme continues but with the provision that any new applicants to join it will require to meet the criteria set out in option 3 detailed in the report i.e. be in receipt of community care support;*
- (5) *to note that, in accordance with the decision of Council on 17 February 2016, the consequent shortfall in budgeted general fund savings of £275k will require to be met from the Corporate and Housing Services budget for 2016/17; and*
- (6) *to note that additional funding of £550k will be made to the Integration Joint Board as a consequence of this decision.*

As an amendment, Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Coleman, moved in substitution for the motion that the Executive *agrees to continue the Garden Aid service based on current eligibility criteria (option 6 in the report) and that it is reinstated with immediate effect.*

On a division 9 members voted for the motion and 3 voted for the amendment, with voting as follows:-

For the motion (9) - Councillors Blackwood, D Goldie, G Goldie, Gow, Mahoney, C Martin, Dr C R Martin, Nicol and Nimmo.

For the amendment (3) – Councillors Alexander, Coleman and Spears.

**Decision**

**The Executive agreed the motion.**