

AGENDA 6, Enc i) ALLOTMENT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2026/27 AND PRIORITIES FOR 2027/28

1. Background

Following agreement at Allotment Liaison, a policy was established for approving capital spend from the Council's agreed allotments budget. Sites were invited to submit their capital wants and needs, and a range of proposals came forward for consideration.

2. Assessment of priorities

On assessment, road/roadway improvements were identified as the highest priority across sites, ahead of all other submissions. However, officers have been unable to confirm costs for all the roadway works required, despite ongoing efforts to do so. The original intention was to confirm costs and then communicate to site representatives and allotment holders what would be feasible within the 2026/27 budget.

Ashington Town Council - Allotment Capital Works Assessment 2026/27

Site Name	Project Description	Cost (£)	Health & Safety Need (max 30)	Impact & Benefit (max 25)	Condition & Urgency (max 20)	Value for Money (max 10)	External Funding (max 10)	Waiting Time & Equity (max 5)	TOTAL SCORE (max 100)
NS Colliery	Roadways Main Road	-£4,800	30	25	20	8	0	4	87
Nursery Park	Raised Beds/Accessible	-£7,330	30	25	0	10	10	5	80
Woodhorn Road	Roadways West		30	25	20				75
Green Lane	Roadways x2 tracks in		30	25	20				75
Hirst East End	Tap Boxes	-£870	5	25	25	10	0	4	69
Green Lane	Fencing	-£19,619	20	15	10	10	6	0	61
Highmarket	Roadways - Avenues in		20	25	15				60
Wansbeck Road	Fencing	-£12,500	10	15	15	10	4	0	54
Woodhorn Road	Roadways East		20	15	10				45
Seaton Hirst	Plot Regeneration		5	15	0				20
	FUNDING RECEIVED (RING-FENCED FOR NP)	£6,670							
	BUDGET AVAILABLE	£38,000							
		-£449							

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3. Position reached

As weeks have passed without confirmed roadway costs for all sites, and with preparation for 2027/28 budget setting fast approaching, it is clear the roads priority will not be deliverable within the 2026/27 financial year. In light of this, a decision was taken to proceed instead with the previously priced fencing works at Green Lane (£19.5k) and Wansbeck Road (£12.5k). These prices have been checked and remain honoured by the supplier, and the works will be completed in the coming months.

Costs for the roadway works are now being sought from other suppliers, in addition to the Council's preferred local supplier, who officers recognise is simply overwhelmed with work at present. As these costs remain outstanding, it is proposed that roadways become the priority capital project for 2027/28. Officers' working estimate at this stage is that the roadway works will cost in excess of £20,000, though this remains unconfirmed.

4. Financial position

The allotments capital budget stands at £38,000. Of this, £4,000 relates to Woodhorn Road, representing a surplus arising at the end of 2025/26 between budgeted revenue and actual spend, which was placed into the asset reserve fund for capital purposes. This sum rightly belongs to, and should be spent on, capital works at that site (this will be carried forward where needed). Additionally, £1,760 for Nursery Park in reclaimed water rates, and a further £5,000 from the Climate Fund from NCC. This is set aside for an environmental/accessibility project that further funds have been raised via a grant from NCC Climate.

5. Implications for 2027/28 budget preparation

As the Council starts budget preparation for 2027/28, site representatives and allotment holders should be aware that officers will be seeking approval of funds for the outstanding roadway works, which are likely to represent the primary — and possibly sole — call on available capital funding for that year.

Site wish lists for further capital works can still be submitted and will continue to be recorded; however, site representatives and allotments holders should be mindful that the feasibility of delivering additional projects alongside the roadway works is unlikely.

6. Recommendation

The Allotment Liaison Committee is asked to note the position on 2026/27 allotment capital spend and the likelihood that roadway works will dominate the 2027/28 capital allocation.