

Leave the Billing period the same (April – March per year)		6 Months of Free Rent from April 2024. Invoice in October 2024 and then yearly from October 2025, in conjunction with a rental increase of 10% from October 2024	
Advantages	Disadvantages	Advantages	Disadvantages
No disruption to way that things are run in the office	The problem of increased and unmanageable workload for the Grounds Team in the summer will still exist	The last rental increase was implemented in April 2019 so it is reasonable to increase it now as we are more than 6 years later. The loss of the 6 months rent would be offset by an increase in the plot fees of 10% and by an anticipated reduction in summer overtime and/ or seasonal worker costs. Costs are £6.05 per perch. An average size plot is 5 perch = total cost of £30.25. A 10% increase would result in an increase of £3.03 for an average plot for 2024-25, which if the new invoicing period is adopted, would take effect from October 2024.	Giving plot holders 6 months free would equate to £15.13 for an average size 5 perch plot. This would result in a small loss to the council of approx. £2,150 over the whole allotment site.
No loss of rental income for the council	There are increased costs to the council in terms of overtime paid to the Grounds Team as well as (potentially) the cost of a seasonal worker.	After the introduction of the deposit/bond last year, six months of free rent would be something positive to give back to the allotment community, the majority of whom keep their plots tidy.	Loss of 6 months allotment rental income
	Retaining the existing invoicing period of April - March would go against the opinions of the Allotment Working Party Members, who supported giving plot holders 6 months of free rent during their meeting of the 19 th July	The loss of income to WPC might be partially or wholly offset as it should reduce the need to pay a seasonal worker. (Please note that the grounds team are still often stretched over the summer months so a seasonal worker may still be needed to cover work on other areas.)	Allotment holders will need to be informed and get used to a different billing period, and an annual increase in allotment rent.
	Some plot holders would still give up their plots in April 2024 (when they are invoiced) which will yet again increase the workload for the grounds team next summer.	The Allotment Working Party support this idea which was discussed at the recent allotment working party meeting on 19 th July. Please note that the rental increase has not been discussed however the working party have been emailed and the Committee will be verbally updated at the meeting with any additional comments received.	
		Pressure on the grounds team will be reduced during their busiest time of year, which should reduce the need for overtime to work on the allotments over the summer months	
		Pressure on the rest of the office would be reduced when the Allotments and Administration Officer takes annual Leave which is often over Easter.	