



Coventry City Council

Briefing Note

To: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee February 4th 2009

Subject: Scrutiny Call-in of Cabinet Member meeting Thursday 15th January 2009 Decision regarding Allesley Park Walled Garden, Coventry.

Purpose of the Note: To provide information in response to the Call-In of the above decision.

The call-in asked the following:

- 1) To better understand why another section of the land can not be maintained by Allesley Walled Garden Group:

Recent previous discussions (July 2008) with the Allesley Park Walled Garden Group where half of the garden was offered failed to reach a satisfactory conclusion, as the group indicated at that they would only accept a lease for the whole site, or at least clarity about the circumstances in which one would be granted, and that cultivating half the site on the existing licence terms would not be in their interest. It is considered that granting such a lease could cost a prohibitive sum and would require a range of permissions of external bodies and public consultation, and for that reason would not be appropriate (Please see separate briefing note detailing legal and planning advice).

- 2) Also to better understand the implications for the young people studying for their NVQs.

No mention of the NVQ programme was made within the Scrutiny Board 4 report upon which the recommendation of SB4 to the Cabinet Member was based. From press reports (Coventry Telegraph, January 17th & 21st 2009), it is claimed that the Allesley Park Walled Garden Group support 30 NVQ students within the quarter that they currently maintain.

On the basis that these students have been taken on by the Allesley Park Walled Garden Group within their current resources and maintained land (i.e. 1 quarter of the garden) and this decision does not propose to reduce the land currently maintained by Allesley Park Walled Garden Group, it is considered that there will be no implications for any people studying NVQs.

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