

Allotment Charges 2026/27



I am sure you are wondering why you have been billed for only 6 months. The Council has moved the annual billing date to 1 October. Those of you who have held an allotment for some time may remember this was when Eastleigh Borough Council previously issued annual charges. This changed during the transfer of services, and the Council is now returning to the October billing cycle.

Your Charges for 1 April 2026 to 30 Sept 2026

Although a pricing update was issued in September 2025, not all allotment holders had received this. To ensure fairness, the Council has:

- **Removed the planned increase, and**
- **Held current pricing for a further 6 months**

From 1 October 2026

Following an online consultation in February and early March 2026, the Asset and Open Spaces Committee met on 11 March 2026 to review your feedback.

Firstly, the councillors wished to thank everyone who took the time to fill it in and share their views and whilst the response didn't disagree with the pricing that had been set, it provided valuable insight into areas that the council could address to mitigate the costs.

One of these was to remove the charging levels and bring the allotment charges in line across all sites. They also heard the feedback re water surcharges and agreed to half these for the new price increase from 1 October 2026 whilst water mitigations were implemented and had time to give real benefits.

So, from 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2027, the rates will be:

- £14.00 per rod
- £2.50 per rod for water

They also wanted to provide more information on **How Allotment Costs Are Funded and Subsidy Levels** so that all allotment holders can understand the financial pressures that inform the council's decision-making process.

Simply put: Running allotments costs more than the income generated from rent and water charges. The shortfall is covered by all Eastleigh residents through council tax, which means the service is partially funded by the wider community, not just plot holders.

Allotments Cost Breakdown for 2025/26

Cost Component	Amount (£)	% of Total
Total Cost of Running Allotments	43,250	100%
Rent + Water Charges Levied	20,420	47%
Council Tax Contribution	22,830	53%

Key Takeaways:

- 53% of the cost of running the allotments is funded through a charge to all residents in the precept.
 - Meaning more people who don't have allotments pay more than those who do
- Rent and water charges only cover part of the cost.
- **If all costs for the allotments were paid by allotment tenants, the price per rod would be £33.25**

Concessions

Whilst ensuring that allotments are accessible financially to all who wish to have one, a fair policy has to be operated to ensure that not just over 60s are compensated and that other individuals with need are supported.

At the Council meeting on 24 September 2025, the inherited over-60s allotment discount was reviewed and an Equality Assessment carried out which resulting in the following amendments being phased in over the next 5 years:

- 2026/27 – 40%
- 2027/28 – 30%
- 2028/29 – 20%
- 2029/30 – 10%
- 2030/31 – 0%

A **Concessions Policy**, offering a **20% discount** to eligible individuals who meet **one of the following criteria** as of 1 April or at the start of their tenancy was approved, directly benefiting:

- Pensioners receiving a means-tested benefit (Pension Credit)
- Individuals receiving Universal Credit or any legacy benefits
- Individuals with a disability receiving Universal Credit, PIP, ESA (with enhanced/severe disability premium), or legacy benefits
- Individuals receiving Carer's Allowance

If you believe you are eligible, we encourage you to contact the Council to apply the concession.

We hope that this information provides you with some background on how Eastleigh Town Council assess and determine the funding required to mitigate the full cost of the allotments being levied on the allotment holders.

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Natasha Barfield or email allotments@eastleigh-tc.gov.uk or 023 8212 1595.